Judge approves Purdue Pharma's \$6 billion settlement agreement. **News, Page 2**

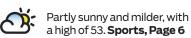
Digital dollar?

Biden signs order urging Fed to look into creating digital currency. **News, Page 8**

Help wanted

U.S. employers posted a near-record 11.3 million jobs in January. **News, Page 8**

Much warmer





VOLUME CLXXXVI COURANT.COM THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

WAR IN UKRAINE

Russia hits maternity hospital

More inside

Aid to Ukraine: The House moved Wednesday toward approving a massive spending bill anchored by \$13.6 billion for battered Ukraine. News, Page 4

'Messy' situation: Vice President Kamala Harris' trip to Warsaw to thank Poland for taking in thousands of Ukrainians fleeing the invasion took an unexpected turn after the Pentagon rejected the idea of providing MiGs to Ukraine. News, Page 4 At least 17 wounded in air attack Zelenskyy calls an 'atrocity;' US says invasion will become more brutal

By Evgeniy Maloletka Associated Press

MARIUPOL, Ukraine — A Russian airstrike devastated a maternity hospital Wednesday in the besieged port city of Mariupol amid growing warnings from the West that Moscow's invasion is about to take a more brutal and indiscriminate turn. Ukrainian officials said at least 17 people were wounded in the attack.

The ground shook more than a mile away when the complex was

hit by a series of blasts that blew out windows and ripped away much of the front of one building. Police and soldiers rushed to scene to evacuate victims, carrying out a heavily pregnant and bleeding woman on a stretcher.

Another woman wailed as she clutched her child. In the court-yard, mangled cars burned, and a blast crater extended at least two stories deep.

"Today Russia committed a huge

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2



Emergency workers and volunteers carry an injured pregnant woman Wednesday in Mariupol, Ukraine. **EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP**



MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

DOTS ON DOTS

Protected by polka-dotted umbrellas, friends Emma MacDonald and Patrick Silver shield themselves from the day's snow while walking on Front Street to visit the Wadsworth Atheneum on Wednesday. A low-pressure system passing south of Connecticut on Wednesday produced light to moderate snow accumulations across the state, topping out at 4.1 inches in Torrington. There will be a weak cold front crossing the state Thursday, bringing partly sunny skies and milder weather as highs range from the mid-40s to the mid-50s. Forecast on Sports, Page 6

Courtney eyes student loan pause extension

Connecticut lawmaker among other Democrats urging continuation of pandemic-long freeze

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., and other House Democrats are urging President Joe Biden to grant a long-term extension to the student loan payment pause and reduce interest student loan rates to 0% amid rising prices for some

goods, including food and gas.

The pause in payments, which has been extended five times since the beginning of the pandemic, has enabled many to chip away at large student loan debts, pay rent

or pay medical bills.

The most recent extension expires May 1. Courtney and Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., want to see student loan payments paused so long as COVID-19 is considered

a public health emergency.

The plan "takes no position in terms of principal balance, but gets at what I think is really one of the cancers in student loan borrowing, which is the metas-

tasizing interest that the present system allows to happen," Courtney said during a press call Tues-

Twenty-nine House Democrats will send a letter later this week to the Biden administration, asking the president to reduce student loan interest rates to 0%

Turn to Loans, Page 3

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bill urges quicker report of deaths

Under law, police would have to notify kin within 24 hours

By Daniela Altimari Hartford Courant

On Dec. 13, Everett Smith got a phone call no father wants to receive: His only daughter, Lauren Smith-Fields, was dead.

"At first it was surreal. I couldn't believe it," Smith said. "My daughter was my baby girl."

Smith-Fields, a 23-year-old community college student from Bridgeport who hoped to become a physical therapist, had died a day earlier, after a date with an older man she met on Bumble. The man called police on Dec. 12 to say he awoke to find Smith-Fields unresponsive.

Her family had been frantically trying to reach her but only learned of her death when her mother, Shantell Fields, went to her apartment and was informed by her landlord.

The deaths of Fields-Smith and another Black woman from Bridgeport that occurred the same day has sparked calls for legislation requiring the timely reporting by the police of a death to the next of kin. House Bill 5349 was the subject of a public hearing on Zoom before the legislature's judiciary committee on Wednesday.

Lawmakers from both parties expressed sympathy for the families and vowed to pass the bill.

"I'm sorry you had to go through this," said Sen. Gary Winfield, the committee's co-chairman, his voice cracking with emotion as he addressed the families directly.

Turn to Notify, Page 3

Advocate: State bears fault for teen's 'preventable' death

Sarah Eagan, the state child advocate, said, "The same caregiver was able to get



licensed by a different agency to care for vulnerable people. Alex Medina died from the very

concerns that the first state agency was worried about." Eagan's office released a report on the child's death.

DCF aware of foster parent's alleged drinking before crash that killed child, report concludes

By Ginny Monk CT Mirror

State regulators reported concerns about James Bailey's drinking as early as 2011, nearly eight years before he drove his car into a telephone pole, an accident that resulted in the death of his 17-year-old foster child.

But according to a new report from the state Office of the Child

Advocate, those concerns didn't result in any action that might have prevented state officials from plac-

ing more children in Bailey's care.

The two agencies that allowed Bailey and his wife to be a state-licensed provider — the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Children and Families — either knew about or investigated concerns about Bailey's drinking, the report said, but failed

to include those concerns in official records or communicate effectively with one another.

Bailey and his wife were licensed to provide care to developmentally and intellectually disabled adults and children as foster parents, first through DDS and later DCF.

Emails examined by the child advocate show escalating concerns at DDS about Bailey, until the agency decided in 2012 not to place any more clients at the home. But DDS employees didn't make a formal record of their concerns in the family's licensing file, the OCA

report states.

As concerns about Bailey's alleged drinking developed at DCF, however, workers there didn't seek further information from DDS, even though Bailey told DCF employees his drinking had been an issue in the past, the report states.

Despite these concerns, state officials continued to place children in Bailey's home. He was behind the wheel in a September 2019 car crash in which his foster

Turn to DCF, Page 3

Man pleads guilty in Simsbury jogger murder case

A man charged with stabbing and killing a woman as she jogged on a Simsbury trail in 2014 pleaded guilty to murder and is to be sentenced to 35 years in prison. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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Puzzles ... Connecticut, 7, 9 Comics ... Connecticut, 8-9 Hartford Courant \$3.00 Copyright 2021 The Hartford Courant Co.

Judge OKs \$6B settlement in Purdue Pharma lawsuit

By Geoff Mulvihill Associated Press

A judge said Wednesday that he would approve a plan that locks members of the Sackler family who own OxvContin maker Purdue Pharma into pumping at least another \$1.2 billion into a nationwide lawsuit settlement that, if ultimately confirmed, would transform the company into a public

The initial approval from U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain set the stage for an emotional virtual hearing Thursday that will allow people recovering from addiction and those who have lost loved ones to the crisis to directly address some of the Sacklers.

Wednesday's hearing with Drain, whose courtroom is in White Plains, New York, was more conventional. But in a topsy-turvy legal saga, even the routine matter had a twist.

States that were among the first to support earlier versions of the Purdue

settlement objected to one key provision. Joined by some local governments, unions and individuals, they contended it's unfair that the states that held out and then negotiated a larger payment from the Sacklers will receive an outsize share of the additional money to use to address the epidemic.

John Guard, the chief deputy attorney general in Florida, told Drain in the hearing, conducted Wednesday by videoconference, that allowing extra money for the holdout states could complicate negotiations for future nationwide opioid settlements involving other companies.

Aaron Cahn, a lawyer representing West Virginia, called the extra \$277 million for the subset of states "a cash grab."

Still, Drain, who approved an earlier settlement last year, OK'd the new settlement terms, pointing out that all states would receive more money to address the opioid crisis under the deal than they would have before.

The original deal was later rejected by an appellate court judge largely because of the opposition of the attorneys general for eight states and the District of Columbia.

After the initial deal was thrown out, the Stamford. Connecticut-based drugmaker went through two months of mediation to reach a new one, announced last week.

Even if Drain approves the settlement terms Wednesday, several legal hurdles remain before the company's entire bankruptcy reorganization plan is final, including having the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rule that Purdue's overall reorganization plan is even legal. If that happens, company's overall reorganization plan would still need to be confirmed by a bankruptcy court.

Like the original settlement, the new one would require members of the Sackler family who own Purdue to give up their ownership.

It would be turned into a new company known as Knoa Pharma, with profits being used to fight an opioid crisis that has been linked to the deaths of more than 500.000 Americans over the past two decades.

Also like the original deal, the new one calls for the Sacklers to contribute cash to fight the epidemic in exchange for protection from civil lawsuits. The key difference is that the Sackler contribution would now be \$5.5 billion to \$6 billion in cash, rather than just over \$4.3 billion and \$175 million in charitable assets.

The exact amount would depend on how much they bring in by selling their international drug companies.

In all, the settlement could be worth \$10 billion or more over time.

Most of the money is to be used by state and local governments to counter the crisis, although \$750 million is to be distributed to victims of the crisis and their survivors. More than \$100 million is being set aside for medical monitoring and payments for children born in withdrawal from opioids, and Native American tribes are in line for more than \$150 million.

Advocates say the money is essential to stemming the crisis. Overdose deaths have been on the rise in the U.S.. exacerbated by the isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread availability of illicit versions of the synthetic opioid fentanyl.

While Sackler family members would be shielded from civil lawsuits, they would not have immunity from criminal charges. There's no indication any are in the works, but seven Democratic U.S. senators called upon the U.S. Department of Justice last month to consider charges.

Also under the new plan, a longer list of company documents would now be made public. Family members also agreed not to resist if educational and cultural institutions to which they've donated want to remove their name.

Another part of the new deal recommended by the mediator is Thursday's airing of statements from people whose lives were devastated by the crisis, either by losing loved ones or years of their own lives to addiction. The names of the speakers, who will represent millions of people affected by the crisis, have not been announced.

It will be the first opportunity for them to address Sackler family members directly in a public setting. It's not clear which of the Sacklers will attend, but there are to be at least two of them — and they are not to speak.

"No one can possibly underestimate how historic tomorrow's session will be," Arik Preis, a lawyer representing Purdue's creditors, told Drain on Wednesday.

Purdue and the Sacklers have long been cast as prime villains in the opioid crisis.

The company has twice pleaded guilty to criminal charges over the way it promoted and sold its signature painkiller OxyContin, an innovative extended-release opioid painkiller first marketed in 1996.

Ukraine

from Page 1

crime," said Volodymir Nikulin, a top regional police official, standing in the ruins. "It is a war crime without any justification."

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on Twitter that there were "people, children under the wreckage" and called the strike an "atrocity."

Video shared by Zelenskyy showed cheerfully painted hallways strewn with twisted metal.

There are few things more deprayed than targeting the vulnerable and defenseless," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson tweeted, adding that Russian President Vladimir Putin will be held "to account for his terrible crimes."

Authorities, meanwhile, announced new cease-fires Wednesday morning to allow thousands of civilians to escape bombarded towns around Kviv as well as the cities of Mariupol, Enerhodar and Volnovakha in the south. Izvum in the east and

Sumy in the northeast. It was not immediately clear whether anyone was able to leave other cities, but people streamed out of Kyiv's suburbs, many headed for the city center, as explosions were heard in the capital and air raid sirens sounded repeatedly.

From there, the evacuees planned to board trains bound for western Ukrainian regions not under attack.

Civilians leaving the Kyiv suburb of Irpin were forced to make their way across the slippery wooden planks of a makeshift bridge, because the Ukrainians blew up the concrete span leading to Kyiv days ago to slow the Russian advance.

With sporadic gunfire echoing behind them, firefighters dragged an elderly man to safety in a wheelbarrow, a child gripped the hand of a helping soldier, and a woman inched her way along, cradling a fluffy cat inside her winter coat. They trudged past a crashed van with the words "Our Ukraine" written in the dust coating its windows.

Previous attempts to establish safe evacuation corridors over the past few days largely failed because of what the Ukrainians said were Russian attacks. But Putin, in a telephone call with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, accused militant Ukrainian nationalists of hampering the evacua-

Nationwide, thousands are thought to have been killed, both civilians and soldiers, since Putin's forces invaded. The U.N. estimates more than 2 million people have fled the country, the biggest exodus of refugees in Europe since the end of World War II.

The fighting knocked out power to the decommissioned Chernobyl nuclear plant, raising fears about the spent radioactive fuel that is stored at the site and must be kept cool.

But the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency said it saw "no critical impact on safety" from the loss of power.

The crisis is likely to get worse as Moscow's forces step up their bombardment of cities in response to what appear to be stronger Ukrainian resistance and heavier Russian losses than anticipated.

Echoing remarks from the director of the CIA a day earlier, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said Russia's assault will get "more brutal and more indiscriminate" as Putin tries to regain momentum.

Britain's Defense Ministry said fighting continued northwest of Kyiv. The cities of Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Sumy and Mariupol were being heavily shelled and remained encircled by Russian forces.

Russian forces are placing military equipment on farms and amid residential buildings in the northern city of Chernihiv, Ukraine's military said. In the south, Russians in civilian clothes are advancing on the city

of Mykolaiv, a Black Sea shipbuilding center of a half-million people, it said.

The Ukrainian military, meanwhile, is building up defenses in cities in the north, south and east, and forces around Kyiv are "holding the line" against the Russian offensive, authorities said.

On Wednesday, some of Ukraine's volunteer fighters trained in a Kyiv park with rocket-propelled grenade launchers. 'I have only one son,"

said Mykola Matulevskiy, a 64-year-old retired martial arts coach, who was with his son, Kostyantin. "Everything is my son."

But now they will fight together: "It's not possible to have it in another way because it's our motherland. We must defend our motherland first of all."

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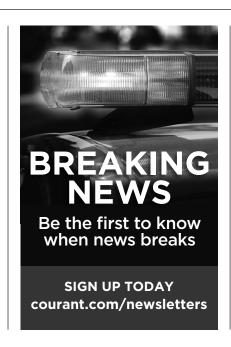
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LOTTERY Wednesday, March 9

PLAY3 DAY **PLAY4 DAY** 3 2 0 ws: 4 4798ws:3

The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/

TUESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS PLAY3 NIGHT 5 8 0 ws:1 **PLAY4 NIGHT** 8 3 4 0 ws: 3 CASH 5 3 14 18 21 23

1 8 17 26 41 LB: 11 LOTTO 5 9 21 26 29 35 MEGA MILLIONS

7 18 38 58 64 MB: 24 MP: 3

LUCKY FOR LIFE



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3/11 Lurrie Bell

"If there is a Chicago blues child who perhaps epitomizes the blues life, it's Lurrie Bell...the premier guitarist in the Windy City." -Boston Blues News

3/12 MET Opera in HD: Ariadne auf Naxos

Soprano Lise Davidsen brings one of her signa-ture roles to the Met for the first time as the mythological Greek heroine of Strauss's enchanting masterpiece.

3/12 Teddy Thompson & Jenni Muldaur: **Great Country Duets**

Thompson and Muldaur both were steeped early on in unapologetic country music thanks to the eclectic tastes of their parents: celebrated pop music figures Richard Thompson and Maria Muldaur, respectively.

3/13 The Arcadian Wild

With one foot planted in choral, and the other in progressive folk and bluegrass, the band offers up songs of invitation: calls to come and see, to find refuge and rest, or to journey and wonder.

3/16 Robert Dubac's- The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?

A solo comedy shows that explore social mores, political ideas and the complexity of the human experience. He belongs to a rare breed of humorists who make comedy smart and tragedy funny.

3/17 Martin Barre- Aqualung 50th Anniversary Tour

At the center of Jethro Tull's unique sound is guitarist Martin Barre, who is renowned for his formidable mastery of historic riffs, power chords and soaring melodic solos. 3/18 Damn the Torpedoes: A Tom Petty Tribute

Mesmerizing audiences since 2007, Damn the Torpedoes offer a complete Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers concert experience. 3/19 Beau Bolero: Steely Dan Tribute

TONE 12.

RISK GROUP







FROM PAGE ONE

Notify

from Page 1

"There are a lot of people who watch your situation and feel it deeply. A lot of people when we pass this bill will be better for the work that you've done, so thank you."

The bill would require the responding officer to notify the next of kin "as soon as practicable, but not later than 24-hours following the identification" of a victim.

Failure to do so could prompt an investigation by the state inspector general, who has been empowered by lawmakers to review cases of police misconduct. If the officer is found in violation, their certification could be revoked.

"This law will help other families who are going through all the grief, pain and heartache our family has gone through and is still going through," Deirdre Owen told lawmakers. Her sister, Brenda Lee Rawls, died on Dec. 12 at the home of a man she knew.

Bridgeport police never notified Owen or her family of Rawls' death. The family called local hospitals and funeral homes before learning two days later that she had been taken to the chief state medical examiner's office in Farmington.

Owen said she couldn't believe it. "I said to my sister [that] if Brenda died, we would have been notified," she told members of the

Bridgeport Mayor Joe Ganim issued a public statement apologizing for a "lack of sensitivity...and failure to police policy" on the part of two city police officers. He also testified in support of the bill.

Acting Bridgeport Police Chief Rebeca Garcia did not return a call Wednesday seeking comment. But both families told lawmakers they had not received personal apologies from the mayor or the city.

"My daughter has been deceased for 88 days," Fields said, adding that her family has not been shown "decency, sensitivity and common respect" by the police. "When it comes to Black and brown people, you need to treat us like we're human," she said.

Smith called the police response "an atroc-



An undated family photo shows Lauren Smith-Fields, who was found dead in her apartment in Bridgeport on Dec. 12 after a Bumble date. Her family says they didn't learn of her death until nearly two days later.

"When you watch television, you see that detective knock on a family's door and break the news," he said. "We didn't get that. We didn't even get a phone call. We had to search and dig and find out from a fourth party."

Brian Anderson, legislative director of the union representing most municipal police officers, said he understands the anguish of families who lose a loved one. But he urged lawmakers to amend the legislation to require a police chief or administrative officer to make

"A first on the scene officer often has his or her hands full in handling the death scene," Anderson said in written testimony to the committee. "It seems more proper to place such a notification responsibility with management rather than rank and file offi-

Rep. Steve Stafstrom, a Bridgeport Democrat and co-chairman of the judiciary committee, noted the sad irony of the two women's death on the same day. "It's incredible and tragic that we have two of these incidents to talk about," he said.

The medical examiner has ruled that Smith-Fields' death was caused by "acute intoxication due to the combined effects of fentanyl, promethazine, hydroxyzine and alcohol." The death was ruled accidental. A criminal investigation is ongoing.

The medical examiner said Rawls' death was from by natural causes.

Loans

from Page 1

The call to action comes amid mounting pressure by lawmakers and activists for Biden to do more to address student debt.

Courtney and Swalwell were joined on the call by three student loan borrowers, all from California, who celebrated the payment pause and pushed for its contin-

For Sang Leng Trieu, of Union City, who holds two graduate degrees, the pause "gave me a chance to catch up and start to save for the first time, really, in my adult life."

Jonathan Ford, a special education teacher in the Bay Area, said he had to go into loan forbearance after not qualifying for a rigid forgiveness program for public service employees, before the pause provided some relief.

"It's been wonderful to be able to pay some of that [debt] down," Ford said, adding his credit score has rebounded from the high 600s to 800.

Kate Lynch, who works in public education, said she and her husband, an attorney, had amassed nearly \$200,000 in federal student loan debt by the time she was 25, despite both earning scholarships and working during graduate school. At 6.5% interest, she said, the payments are unsus-

Lynch added that she and her husband hope to buy a home — an impossible dream barring changes to interest rates.

Swalwell said he's spoken to several realtors who say their "number one" issue is the number of young families who want to buy first homes, but say they can't afford to because of large amounts of student debt.

"There's so much more we can do, and [Courtney] and I stand ready with a number of different options," Swalwell said.

On the campaign trail, Biden routinely indicated an interest in canceling at least \$10,000 in student debt as part of his plan for a post-pandemic economic recovery.

That hasn't happened, but the administration has in total forgiven billions of dollars of debt for hundreds of thousands

of borrowers since the former senator from Delaware took office.

The Biden administration last fall expanded the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, making loan forgiveness available to more people working public service jobs. More than \$5.8 billion in loans were wiped out for about 323,000 borrowers with permanent disabilities, the U.S. Department of Education said.

But soaring costs of higher education and cases of predatory lending have saddled millions more with debilitating debts.

Americans have an estimated \$1.75 trillion in outstanding student loans, according to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve.

The sum is twice as much as it was in late

Democrats in Congress have urged Biden to use his executive authority to unilaterally cancel \$50,000 in student debt per person, but it isn't clear whether the president has the power to do so.

Some form of student debt cancellation remains a popular policy, particularly among millennials and Gen Zers.

Sixty-two percent of registered voters support at least some student debt forgiveness, according to a MorningCall/Politico poll published in December. Nineteen percent said they think all student loan debt should be forgiven.

In Connecticut, lawmakers are working on their own student loan forgiveness proposals.

State Democrats met on Tuesday to discuss plans to ease the debt burden on borrowers by up to \$5,000 each year, so long as the borrower attended a state college or university and has lived in Connecticut for at least five years.

House Bill 5001, a broad children's mental health bill, would offer student loan forgiveness in an effort to address the staffing, recruitment and retention challenges in the mental health care field.

Gov. Ned Lamont's proposed budget, meanwhile, sets aside \$17 million to expand a student loan forgiveness program aimed at health care workers who work in underserved communities.

DCF

from Page 1

child, 17-year-old Alexander Medina, was killed. Bailey is charged with drunken driving and second-degree manslaughter.

The report describes Alex's death as "unexpected and preventable."

One state agency that serves vulnerable people said 'We aren't going to place any more people here," said Sarah Eagan, the state child advocate. "The same caregiver was able to get licensed by a different agency to care for vulnerable people. Alex Medina died from the very concerns that the first state agency was worried about."

Eagan added that there are gaps in state law and state agencies' protocols that need to be addressed.

The report contains several recommendations for improving the state's methods of investigating abuse and neglect as well as reporting and communicating concerns between agencies assigned to protect the children in their care.

Recommendations also include ways to improve documentation of concerns in case and licensing records and communication between agencies, among other measures.

In response to a request for comment and questions about any policy changes as a result of Alex Medina's death, DDS spokesman Kevin Bronson said the department is working with other agencies to ensure children and families in the system receive the support they need.

The report notes that following OCA staff's conversations with DDS, staff concluded that "more work may need to be done to ensure DDS's compliance with state laws regarding reporting and investigation of suspected abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults."

It also references a 2016 report from the U.S. Health and Human Services Inspector General that says DDS didn't comply with federal Medicaid and state requirements for monitoring "critical incidents" because staff weren't correctly trained to identify and report suspicions of abuse and neglect, among other problems.

"The Department of Developmental Services takes seriously the concerns raised by the Office of the Child Advocate's investigation into the death of Alexander Medina," Bronson wrote in an emailed statement. "We continue to work with both the Office of the Child Advocate and the Department of Children and Families to understand how we can better align state systems and processes to best support individuals and families.'

DCF has worked with private providers "to fully understand the care and treatment Alex received in his foster home" and meets regularly with OCA to "enhance Connecticut's child serving systems," Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes said in a statement.

The agency conducted its own review of the case, which Eagan said was thorough.

"Our work continues with the Department of Developmental Services to further enhance communication regarding the children and families we jointly serve," Dorantes' statement said. "Our practice has already been reinforced based on our internal reviews of this case and we will continue to discuss any further applicable findings in today's letter."

Alex's case

Alex was placed in Bailey's home in 2017. He'd been in three foster homes before then, in addition to a residential program and a therapeutic group home.

He didn't want to be adopted but did want to stay at Bailey's house, the OCA report

The two summers before his death, Alex had attended a University of Connecticut program that helps kids in foster care with college readiness. In 2019, he got an award for improved study skills, the report states.

Alex called home on Sept. 30, 2019, the day

of the crash, asking to be picked up because he didn't feel well. Bailey came to get him.

On the way home, Bailey allegedly veered off the road and hit a telephone pole, the report states. Alex was thrown from the car and critically injured. He died from a brain injury three days later.

Bailey was later charged with drunken driving, reckless endangerment, reckless driving and two counts of second-degree manslaughter. He was released on bail and is awaiting trial.

The state Department of Children and Families substantiated allegations of abuse and neglect of Alex, as well as emotional neglect of another child in the family's home, against Bailey after Alex's death. Allegations of physical neglect of Alex were also substantiated against Bailey's wife, Sherron Bailey.

That process of substantiating abuse and neglect allegations occurs through DCF and is separate from criminal charges.

Representatives of Ruane Attorneys, the firm representing Bailey, did not respond to a request for comment Monday afternoon.

First concerns

The Baileys were state caretakers for years before Alex came to live with them.

The Department of Developmental Services licensed them as a "Community Training Home" for people with intellectual and co-occurring developmental disabilities. In 2011, DDS investigators looked into a report that Bailey told a young man with an intellectual disability and behavioral support that he needs to "shut the (expletive) up.

The young man, named Jonah, called his aunt and asked to be picked up because he was afraid and because Bailey "drinks too much." Jonah's conservator visited the Bailey's home that evening, and although Bailey denied the allegations, the conservator thought he'd been drinking.

After an investigation, the allegation of verbal abuse was not substantiated.

The conservator also said Jonah's family was concerned that "Mr. Bailey takes Jonah to the casino, sometimes Mr. Bailey is drunk"

The OCA report contains a recommendation that DDS staff be trained to identify, report and investigate all types of abuse and neglect, including spousal violence and verbal abuse.

Also in 2011, a DDS manager asked the private agency administrator assigned to Jonah's case not to increase the Bailevs' licensing capacity from one to two people but didn't note a reason. Investigators recommended that state regulators conduct periodic unannounced visits at the Bailey house and try to place Jonah closer to his family.

A case manager emailed a DDS foster care manager and said they'd been informed that Bailey wasn't allowed to drive another client to a day program "because of possible drinking." The manager questioned if Bailey should be allowed to drive Jonah.

DDS didn't produce a response to that email for the OCA report.

In August 2012, Jonah was moved out of the home, and DDS told its foster care agency not to place anyone else with the Baileys. The foster care manager noted concerns about Bailey's drinking, but there's no DDS record of what happened afterward, according to

The DDS manager said later that because Jonah was out of the house, it wasn't a reportable issue. The agency also acknowledged that its 2011 investigation "may not have been as complete as it could have." The agency also lacks an electronic infor-

mation management system for visitation records, field observations or emails regarding licensed homes, the report said, and there is no requirement that staff store emails.

The OCA recommends that DDS ensure all information related to the health and safety of its clients is included in case and licensing

The report calls DDS' decision not to

communicate with DCF and take no formal action on the license "alarming" and notes the agency has expressed hesitation to document concerns that it can't prove. But Eagan said the investigations should have been more

"That's something we see across child services — 'We won't say anything bad about you, but you can't stay here,' " Eagan said. 'When you're in a life and death business, you can't do that.... The concerns that were raised about Mr. Bailey's drinking and drinking and driving while he was a DDS caregiver needed to be investigated."

After Jonah was removed, no further action

was taken against Bailey.
"DDS voiced to OCA that it is not 'illegal to drink' and it is difficult to prove someone drinks to excess, and that a disparaging record or finding from DDS might open up the agency to legal action, including libel, and harm the former license-holder's ability to seek approval from another agency," the report states.

Switching to DCF care

Immediately after DDS made its informal decision not to place clients with the Baileys, the couple gave up their DDS license and applied to be licensed DCF foster parents through the contracted agency The Connec-

The Connection did not return requests for comment.

State regulations don't require that license applicants undergo a multi-agency review to determine if they had regulatory issues with another agency, the report states.

In 2012, the DDS foster care manager emailed the DCF foster care manager to say that The Connection should ask for a release of information about the Bailevs. The Connection's subsequent request didn't explicitly ask for information about drugs or alcohol, however, so "DDS internally concluded that its concerns about Mr. Bailey's drinking could not be disclosed," the report states.

The report states that a DDS manager also told The Connection's foster care manager that they "should think twice about licensing the Baileys" but didn't provide anything in writing regarding the alcohol use concerns. Records provided also didn't reflect the abuse allegation from 2011.

With "nothing tangible" to prevent licensing, The Connection licensed the Baileys through DCF, and in 2013 they had two children with disabilities placed with them. One of the children particularly bonded with the couple and thrived in their home, according

to the report. Checklists for monthly inspections in the foster home did not include any reference to alcohol or other substances, the report states.

The OCA report recommends that Connecticut ensure that agencies request and receive complete licensing records regarding an applicant for custodial care.

Another report

In 2015, concerns were raised again about Bailey's alleged drinking when a DCF social worker saw several empty beer cans and other alcohol containers in the house. The state and The Connection decided to have the Baileys sign an agreement not to transport any children while under the influence and to drink responsibly.

The OCA report says that there's no indication in DCF records that The Connection told the state about the earlier call with DDS.

Later that year, a nurse came to the house at 10:15 a.m. and described Bailey as allegedly "unsteady on his feet, having blood shot eyes and smelling of liquor" when a foster child was home. The Connection reported the incident to the state as a possible instance of child abuse/neglect.

During the investigation. Bailey told DCF investigators that he'd been in trouble with DDS for "having a beer," but investigators

didn't follow up on the statement.

The report was unsubstantiated, and Bailey denied drinking the morning of the report. A child in the home said he saw Bailey drinking beer occasionally.

A new safety agreement required Bailey to undergo a substance abuse assessment, which concluded with no reported treatment recommendations, according to the report.

Through 2015 and 2016, the Baileys asked for a child's removal from their home because they were concerned he was smoking cannabis. After the child was removed, the Bailevs closed their file with The Connection and were transferred to the Wheeler Clinic so that they could have one of their previous foster

children placed with them again. They were approved as a "family and community ties foster home," the highest level of therapeutic foster care available through DCF. The file sent from The Connection to Wheeler Clinic didn't include a complete DCF investigation report from the nurse's report in 2015 or the safety agreements, according to the OCA report.

Foster care agencies don't automatically receive full investigative records about prospective or transferring foster families, and the Wheeler Clinic didn't request a full

The clinic received a 2017 intake document that referenced a 2015 incident in which "substance abuse with an adverse emotional and physical impact was alleged towards Mr. Bailey." The document notes that the allegations were investigated and unsubstantiated, the OCA report states.

In its report, OCA recommended that DCF standardize what contracted foster care agencies are required to obtain and share regarding homes applying for licenses and that the state agency standardize home visits and address alcohol and substance storage at the licensed home

In 2017, the relative of a youth placed in the Bailey home called DCF and told them the youth had allegedly been kicked out. The youth made several allegations, including that Bailey "drinks 24-7" and that Bailey threatened to cut off his hands with a machete,

among other allegations. He later recanted most of the allegations, and Wheeler Clinic staff reported that "the youth had a pattern of making allegations against the foster home to justify his [running

away behavior] from home," the report states. DCF did not substantiate the report of abuse/neglect. The investigation didn't include a significant assessment of substance abuse, the OCA report states.

Alex's placement

Later that year, Alex was placed in the Bailey household. His DCF case plan is focused on his individual case and doesn't include any references to the 2015 or 2017 allegations about Bailey's drinking. The OCA report also says his social work team was not aware of Bailey's history.

OCA's report recommended that DCF revise its protocols to ensure that suspected abuse and neglect and any safety or service agreements at a foster home are documented and reviewed. It also recommended that DCF ensure that a child's social work team review any prior concerns about a foster parent before a child is placed in the home.

After Alex's death, a youth who was placed in the Bailey home a few months before the crash said that Bailey allegedly often drank and slept on the supporch. He also said the Baileys went to the casino often, leaving their foster children to play video games in the lobby of the casino.

As an additional safeguard, OCA recommended that DCF report to juvenile court the suspected abuse or neglect of a child in placement and any safety agreements with caregivers.

The agency will work with DDS and DCF and the state legislature to implement its recommendations, the report states.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

House OKs \$13.6B in Ukraine aid

Dems cut pandemic funding to advance \$1.5T spending bill

By Alan Fram Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House approved a massive spending bill Wednesday night that would rush \$13.6 billion in U.S. aid to battered Ukraine and its European allies, after top Democrats were forced to drop their plan to include fresh funds to battle COVID-19.

Passage of the Ukraine aid and the \$1.5 trillion government-wide legislation that carried it let both parties lay claim to election-year victories for their priorities. Democrats won treasured domestic initiatives, Republicans achieved defense boosts, and both got their imprint on funds to counter Russia's brutal invasion of its western neighbor. Senate approval was assured by week's end or perhaps slightly longer.

Hours earlier, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., had to abandon the bill's \$15.6 billion for combating the pandemic, a decision she called "heartbreaking" and that spelled defeat for a top priority of President Joe Biden and party leaders. The money was mostly to bolster U.S. supplies of vaccines, treatments and tests and battle the disease around the world, but a Democratic revolt over Republican-demanded state aid cuts to cover the new initiatives' costs forced her to scrap that spending.

"We've got a war going on in Ukraine," Pelosi told reporters, explaining the



A Territorial Defense Forces member hugs a resident fleeing shelling Wednesday near Kyiv, Ukraine. OLEKSANDR RATUSHNIAK/AP

urgency Democrats felt in making concessions in bargaining with Republicans. "We have important work that we're doing here."

She said with her party in the 50-50 Senate needing at least 10 GOP votes to pass legislation, Democrats "are going to have to know there has to be compromise."

The House approved the overall bill in two separate votes. The measure's security programs were approved 361-69, the rest 260-171, with most Republicans opposed.

The Ukraine aid included \$6.5 billion for the U.S. costs of sending troops and weapons to Eastern Europe and equipping allied forces there in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion and repeated, bellicose threats.

There was another \$6.8 billion to care for refugees and provide economic aid to allies, and more to help federal agencies enforce economic sanctions against Russia and protect against cyber threats at home.

Biden had requested \$10 billion for the package.

Pelosi said she talked to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for 45 minutes Wednesday.

She said they discussed the weapons and other assistance his country needs and "the crimes against humanity that Putin is committing," including a Russian airstrike that destroyed a maternity hospital. "This is the beast that Putin is," Pelosi said.

While enmity toward Putin and a desire to send assistance to the region is virtually universal in Congress, lawmakers have had a hard time finding unity on other steps.

In one area of agreement, the House also planned a vote on a bill banning Russian oil imports — Biden imposed such a ban this week — and levying other sanctions, underscoring lawmakers' eagerness to demonstrate they're taking action.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., called the \$1.5 trillion

measure a "reasonable compromise" and said its extra defense spending was "clearly necessary in the wake of Vladimir Putin's unprovoked aggression against Ukraine."

In a remarkable and widespread rank-and-file rebellion, Democratic lawmakers froze the House into inactivity for most of Wednesday.

Their demand? A refusal to accept Republicans' insistence that the new COVID-19 spending be paid for with cuts in previ-

ously enacted pandemic aid to 30 states. Pelosi eventually relented and decided to remove all pandemic spending from

the government-wide,

\$1.5 trillion package. That underscored the pressure Congress feels to help Ukraine resist the Russian invasion before it's too late and to help nearby nations bolster their militaries and absorb over 2 million refugees fleeing the fighting.

The House planned to vote next week on a separate measure providing the full \$15.6 billion for pandemic programs, without cutting state aid. It was expected to pass but face an uphill fight in the Senate, where strong GOP opposition seemed fatal.

The \$1.5 trillion measure and its 2,741 pages would keep agencies functioning through Sept. 30, the end of the fiscal year.

Since it began Oct. 1, the government has functioned on short-term measures that prevented federal shutdowns but held programs to levels agreed to under President Donald Trump.

Democrats won a 6.7% increase over last year in domestic programs, to a total of \$730 billion.

Republicans were able to boost defense programs to \$782 billion, a 5.6% increase.

Last spring, Biden proposed increases of 16% for domestic and just 2% for defense programs for this year. Neither was realistic because of Democrats' tiny congressional majorities.

Since then, Russia's pummeling of Ukraine made it impossible for Democrats to resist defense increases. And the relentless pandemic, families' growing costs from inflation and collapse of Biden's huge social and environment bill made it harder to stop Democrats' domestic boosts.

Harris flies into 'a messy' situation over Polish jets

Pentagon rejects idea of providing MiGs to Ukraine

By Aamer Madhani and Lisa Mascaro Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Vice President Kamala Harris' trip to Warsaw to thank Poland for taking in hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians fleeing Russia's invasion took an unexpected turn before she even left Washington. She's parachuting into the middle of unexpected diplomatic turbulence over fighter jets.

The Polish government Tuesday came out with a plan to transfer its Russianmade fighter planes to a U.S. military base in Germany, with the expectation that the planes would then be handed over to Ukrainian pilots trying to fend off Russian forces. In turn, the U.S. would supply Poland with U.S.-made jets with "corresponding capabilities."

But the Poles didn't run that idea past the Biden administration before going public with it, and the Pentagon quickly dismissed the idea as not tenable. Warplanes flying from a U.S. and NATO base

into airspace contested with Russia would raise the risk of the war expanding beyond Ukraine.

Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki on Wednesday stressed that Poland's support to Ukraine has been defensive and that any decision whether to make the MiG-29 planes available to Ukraine would be up to the U.S. and NATO—and then only if all nations agreed.

Around the same time that Harris was arriving in Warsaw, the Pentagon was publicly rebuffing the idea of providing MiGs to Ukraine, even through a second country

The plane issue provided a rare moment of disharmony in what has been a largely united effort by NATO allies to assist Ukraine without getting embroiled in a wider war with Russia.

And it meant Harris was flying into fractious terrain Wednesday as she opens a two-day visit to Poland and Romania and tries to patch things up.

"This fighter jet situation is a messy deal, and Harris will have to go there and smooth things out," said Daniel Fried, who served as U.S. ambassador to Poland for President Bill Clinton and was a senior adviser

in the George W. Bush and Barack Obama administra-

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Harris' trip was not focused on the aircraft issue and the matter would be "worked through military channels."

Harris is scheduled to meet Thursday with Morawiecki and Polish President Andrzej Duda as well as with Ukrainians who have fled to Poland. She'll also meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau while in Warsaw. Trudeau has been in Europe this week meeting with Ukraine allies.

Harris will travel Friday to Bucharest, where she's to meet Romanian President Klaus Iohannis.

The vice president also is expected to use the meetings in Poland and Romania to underscore the U.S. commitment to NATO and the need for continued humanitarian and military assistance for Ukraine.

Biden has applauded Poland and other eastern European countries for stepping up in the midst of what's become an enormous humanitarian crisis that is growing. Some 2 million people have fled Ukraine, and more than half of the refugees have arrived in



Vice President Kamala Harris arrives Wednesday at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Harris later landed in Poland and will also go to Romania for meetings on the war in Ukraine. **SAULLOEB/AFP**

Poland.

Biden has deployed 4,700 additional U.S. troops to Poland to bolster the defense of the eastern flank NATO

ally.
"I've made it clear that the United States will share in the responsibility of caring for the refugees so the costs do not fall entirely on the European countries bordering Ukraine," Biden said.

Hours after Biden spoke, Poland blindsided the White House with its proposal.

Victoria Nuland, undersecretary of state for political affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that she saw the Polish government's announcement as she was driving to Capitol Hill to testify.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., called it "curious" for Poland to announce its plan "without alerting us first."

Secretary of State Antony Blinken did say Sunday that the U.S. was working with Poland on plans to supply Ukraine with fighter jets and to "backfill" Poland's needs. The Polish government, however, made clear that it would not send its fighter jets directly to Ukraine or allow its airports to be used.

Poland's idea of transferring its MiGs to the U.S. did not come up during the talks with Blinken, according to a U.S. official familiar with the talks.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading for NATO to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine or provide his country with fighter jets. NATO has nixed the no-fly zone idea, saying that would lead to the biggest conflict in Europe since World War II and spread further.



A mortuary worker sits on body bags Wednesday near the besieged town of Mariupol, Ukraine. **EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP**

Besieged Mariupol buries dead in mass grave

Associated Pres

MARIUPOL, Ukraine — Under steady Russian bombardment, workers in Ukraine's besieged southern port city of Mariupol are hastily burying scores of dead Ukrainian civilians and soldiers in a mass grave.

With morgues overflowing and more corpses uncollected in homes, city officials decided they could not wait to hold individual burials.

A deep trench about 27 yards long dug in an old

cemetery in the heart of the city is filling up with bodies collected by municipal social service workers from morgues and private homes.

Some are brought wrapped in carpets or plastic bags. Forty came Tuesday, another 30 Wednesday. They include civilian victims of shelling on the city and soldiers, as well as civilians who died of disease

or natural causes.
Other city workers also brought bodies so the numbers being buried

quickly rose, making the total in the long grave unclear.

After pushing the bodies into the common grave, workers quickly make the sign of the cross. No family members or other mourners are present to say their goodbyes.

The work is carried out efficiently, and unceremoniously, as a result of the ever-present danger. Shells landed in the cemetery itself Tuesday, interrupting the burials and damaging a wall.

this grave Thursday, if the bombardments stop long enough to allow workers to do so.

The city plans to close

At the gates of the cemetery, a woman asked if her mother is among those buried in the trench. She said she had left her body three days before outside the morgue, with a paper label stating her name attached. Her mother was buried there, the workers told the woman, who declined to give her name.

Attack deepens Mideast divisions

Nations struggling to stay neutral, but several favor Putin

By Qassim Abdul-Zahra and Zeina Karam

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In a neighborhood of Iraq's capital, a gigantic poster of Vladimir Putin with the words, "We support Russia," was up for few hours before a security force arrived and hurriedly took it down. Then came the security directive: All public displays of Putin's pictures shall be banned.

In Lebanon, the Hezbollah militia railed against the government's condemnation of Russia's attack on Ukraine, calling for neutrality.

Such wrangling shows the deep divisions over the Ukraine war in the Middle East, where Moscow has embedded itself as a key player in recent years, making powerful friends among state and non-state actors while America's influence waned.

Political elites allied with the West are wary of alienating Russia or the U.S. and Europe. But other forces from Shiite militia factions in Iraq, to Lebanon's Hezbollah group and Houthi rebels in Yemen — support Russia against Ukraine.

These groups are considered to be Iran's boots on the ground in the so-called anti-U.S. axis of resistance. Putin won their backing largely because of his ties with Tehran and his military intervention in Syria's civil war in support of President Bashar Assad.

They see Putin as a steady, reliable partner who, unlike the Americans, does not drop his allies.

In their circles, they even have an affectionate nick-name for Putin — "Abu Ali" — which is a common name among Shiite Muslims and meant to portray a certain camaraderie.

maraderie. Meanwhile, governments



A Syrian woman passes a billboard this week in Damascus showing Russia's Vladimir Putin. The poster in Arabic reads, "Victory for Russia." OMAR SANADIKI/AP

are walking a tightrope.

"Iraq is against the war but has not condemned it nor taken a side," said political analyst Ihsan Alshamary, who heads the Political Thought Think Tank in Baghdad. Iraq needs to remain neutral because it has shared interests with Russia and the West, he said.

He said Iran's allies in the region are outspokenly with Russia "because they are anti-American and anti-West and believe that Russia is their ally."

Russia has invested up to \$14 billion in Iraq and the northern Kurdish-run region, mainly focusing on the energy sector, Moscow's ambassador Elbrus Kutrashev told the Iraqi Kurdish news agency Rudaw recently.

Among the major oil companies operating in the

country are Russia's Lukoil, Gazprom Neft and Rosneft.

Iraq also maintains close ties with the U.S., but Western companies have steadily been plotting to exit from Iraq's oil sector.

Iraq's strongest move so far came after its central bank advised the prime minister against signing new contracts with Russian companies or payments in light of U.S. sanctions. The decision will impact new Russian investment in the country, but little else, Russian industry officials said.

Last week, Iraq was among the 35 countries that abstained from a U.N. General Assembly vote to demand that Russia stop its offensive and withdraw troops from Ukraine. Lebanon voted in favor, while Syria, where Russian ties run

deep, voted against. Iran also abstained.

In Lebanon, an unusually blunt Foreign Ministry statement denouncing Russia's invasion of Ukraine caused an uproar and upset the Russians, forcing the minister to clarify that Lebanon did not intend to take sides and would remain neutral

would remain neutral.

"They distance themselves and claim neutrality where they want, and they interfere and condemn where they want," Hezbollah lawmaker Ibrahim Moussawi wrote on Twitter, taking aim at the Foreign Ministry. "What foreign policy does Lebanon follow, and what is Lebanon's interest in that? Please clarify for us, foreign minister."

Hezbollah, which also sent thousands of fighters to neighboring Syria to shore up Assad's forces, has seized on Russia's invasion of Ukraine to portray it as an inevitable result of U.S. provocations and yet another betrayal by the United States of its allies — in this case, Ukraine.

In Syria, where Russia maintains thousands of troops, billboards proclaiming, "Victory for Russia" popped up in areas of Damascus this week.

In opposition-held areas, which still get hit by Russian airstrikes, residents hope pressure will ease on them if Russia gets bogged down in fighting in Ukraine.

In Iraq, the Ukraine war is highlighting divisions in an already fractured land-scape during stalled efforts to form a new government, five months after parliamentary elections were held.

The huge billboard in support of Putin was briefly

put up in a Baghdad neighborhood considered a stronghold of powerful Iranian-backed militias. After it was removed, the Russian Embassy in Baghdad tweeted an image of it

an image of it.

"The poster was provocative, I am against it," said Athir Ghorayeb, who works at a nearby coffee shop.

Iraq is only just emerging from decades of war and conflict, he said. "Why do they insist on involving us in new problems?"

Many Iraqis see in Russia's invasion of Ukraine echoes of Saddam Hussein's invasion of neighboring Kuwait and subsequent yearslong economic sanctions placed on Iraq. It was only a few days ago that Iraq finished paying reparations to Kuwait, which totaled more than \$52 billion.

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ANALYSIS

GOP errors threaten path to Senate

Democrats hopeful amid feud between McConnell, Scott

By Steve Peoples and Brian Slodysko Associated Press

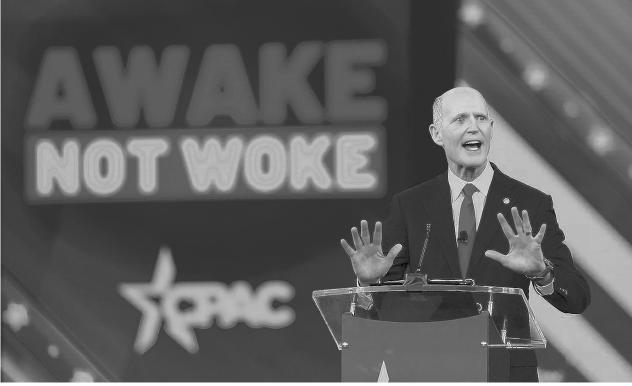
WASHINGTON — As the prospect of a red wave grows, a series of Republican missteps, including recruiting stumbles, weak fundraising and intense infighting, is threatening the GOP's path to the Senate majority.

Arizona's Republican Gov. Doug Ducey dealt his party its latest setback late last week by announcing he would not challenge Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly this fall. His decision, which leaves no obvious front-runner in a crowded Republican primary, disappointed Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and his allies who had spent months privately encouraging Ducey to run.

But the GOP's shortcomings extend beyond Arizona.

Republican candidates in Arizona, Georgia and Nevada are struggling to keep pace with Democratic fundraising. Recruiting failures have dashed GOP hopes in reach states like Maryland and threaten a prime pickup opportunity in New Hampshire. And a recent plan that would raise taxes on low-income Americans and seniors, released by the Republican Senate midterm chief, Florida Sen. Rick Scott, is putting GOP candidates in a difficult position across states like Florida. Ohio and Wisconsin.

The challenges amount to an early warning sign for Republicans less than two months before the opening Senate primaries of the 2022 election season. With Democrats confronting historic headwinds and the weight of an unpopular president, a Republican Senate majority is easily within reach. But, sensing discord within the



Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., has released a proposal that would cut taxes on low-income Americans and seniors. JOE RAEDLE/GETTY

GOP, Democrats are optimistic they may have a path to hold — or even expand — their majority.

Rep. Val Demings, the leading Democrat in the race to unseat Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, acknowledged that her party has struggled to highlight its accomplishments - including sweeping coronavirus pandemic relief and a massive infrastructure package - in the face of President Joe Biden's political woes. But she seized on Scott's plan as a clear contrast for how Democrats and Republicans would govern differently.

"This plan is toxic. It would hurt working families. It would hurt seniors. And Rubio's going to own it," Demings said.

Rubio's campaign declined to say whether he supported Scott's plan when asked, issuing a statement instead that called Demings "a do-nothing member of Congress who has never even passed a real

law, much less a tax cut."

With eight months until Election Day, the political landscape remains in flux.

The health of the economy, a Supreme Court decision on abortion and the war in Eastern Europe remain major variables. But history suggests Democrats would be lucky to preserve their fragile Senate majority in November.

In a 50-50 Senate, Democrats would lose control of Congress' upper chamber if they lose a seat. And without the majority, they lose any hope of enacting Biden's plans to bolster child care, education, family leave and environmental protection while protecting voting rights.

The GOP's best pickup opportunities rest in Arizona, Georgia and Nevada, said Steven Law, a McConnell ally who leads the most powerful Republican-aligned Senate super PAC. He said he's increas-

ingly optimistic about the state viewed as the Democrats' best pickup opportunity, Pennsylvania, and sees competitive races in GOP-held states like Florida, Missouri and North Carolina trending in the right direction.

Democratic strategists acknowledge their party's uphill odds in the months ahead.

But on paper, at least, the current Senate landscape gives them an inherent advantage.

"Frankly, Democrats just need to hold seats in states Biden won," said Jessica Floyd, president of the pro-Democratic super PAC American Bridge, which launched a \$5 million paid advertising campaign late last week across four states: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania. "The map matters."

While Biden did win all four of American Bridge's target states, the Democratic president won three of them by 1 percentage point or less and the other by just 2 percentage points. Those margins should give Demo-

crats little comfort.
Republican Glenn Youngkin narrowly defeated former Democratic Gov.
Terry McAuliffe in Virginia's governor's race last fall, even though Biden had carried the state by 10 percentage points a year earlier. Longerterm historical trends are no less daunting for Democrats: Over the last 40 years, the party that holds the White House has won Senate seats in only two midterm elections.

Meanwhile, escalating tensions among Republican leaders at the highest levels threatens to undercut the party's ambitions.

McConnell and former President Donald Trump have long sparred over Republican messaging and candidate endorsements. In some states, Trump favors far-right nominees who struggle in statewide general elections.

But for now, a simmering feud between McConnell and Scott has taken center stage.

Scott, the leader of the GOP's Senate midterm efforts, released an 11-point plan late last month that would impose a modest tax increase for many of the lowest paid Americans, while opening the door for cutting Social Security and Medicare. The Senate Democrats' political arm released a radio ad within 24 hours declaring, "If Senate Republicans win, we pay the price."

we pay the price."
Staffers from Scott's
Senate committee moved
into triage mode almost
immediately, reaching out
to Republican campaigns
across the country to gauge
their frustration while offering messaging help, according to senior Republican
strategists with knowledge
of the situation.

The strategists, who requested anonymity to discuss private deliberations, said many Senate Republicans had been willing to ignore what they viewed as Scott's presidential ambitions over the last year.

But that changed when the Florida senator released his latest proposal, which they considered an "unforced error" that triggered a wave of anger across the party.

McConnell could not stay silent as he faced reporters last week on Capitol Hill.

He rebuked Scott's plan during the Republican leadership's weekly news conference, which Scott was part of.

"Let me tell you what would not be a part of our agenda," McConnell said moments after Scott stepped away from the event. "We will not have as part of our agenda a bill that raises taxes on half of the American people and sunsets Social Security and Medicare within five years."



Thursday at the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea. LEE JIN-MAN /POOL PHOTO

Ex-prosecutor narrowly wins presidential race in SKorea

By Hyung-Jin Kim and Kim Tong-Hyung Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Yoon Suk-yeol, a conservative former top prosecutor and foreign policy neophyte, was elected South Korea's new president Thursday, a win expected to herald Seoul's drive to seek a stronger alliance with the United States and take a tougher line on North Korea.

With over 99% of the votes counted early Thursday, Yoon from the main opposition People Power Party had 48.6% against ruling liberal Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung's 47.8%. It was South Korea's most closely fought presidential election.

"This is the victory of our great people," Yoon said in his victory speech at his party's campaign office. "I would respect our constitution and parliament and work together with the opposition party to serve our people properly."

Yoon is to take office in May and serve a single fiveyear term as leader of the world's 10th-largest economy.

Earlier, Lee, a former

governor of Gyeonggi province, conceded at his party headquarters.

"I did my best but wasn't able to live up to expectations," Lee said.

Wednesday's election boiled down to a two-way showdown between Yoon and Lee, who spent months slamming, mocking and demonizing each other in one of the most bitter political campaigns in recent memory. Their fighting has aggravated the country's already severe domestic divisions and stoked speculation that the losing candidate might face criminal probes over scandals that they've been linked to.

After winning the election, Yoon said his race with Lee and other contenders has improved South Korean politics. "Our competition is over for now. We should combine our strengths and become one for our people," he said.

Critics say neither Yoon nor Lee has presented a clear strategy for how they would ease the threat from North Korea and its nuclear weapons. They also say voters are skeptical about how both would handle international rela-

tions amid the U.S.-China rivalry and how they would address widening economic inequality and runaway housing prices.

Yoon says he would sternly deal with North Korean provocations and seek to boost trilateral security cooperation with Washington and Tokyo to neutralize North Korean nuclear threats. He has made it clear that an enhanced alliance with the United States would be the center of his foreign policy. Yoon said he would take a more assertive stance on China.

Lee, for his part, had called for greater reconciliation with North Korea and a diplomatic pragmatism amid the U.S.-China confrontations.

Yoon had been current liberal President Moon Jae-in's prosecutor general but resigned and joined the opposition last year following infighting over probes of Moon's allies. Yoon said those investigations were objective and principled, but Moon's supporters said he was trying to thwart Moon's prosecution reforms and elevate his own political standing.

Md. man with transplanted pig heart dies after 2 months

By Lauran Neergaard and Carla K. Johnson Associated Press

The first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig has died, two months after the ground-breaking experiment, the Maryland hospital that performed the surgery announced Wednesday.

David Bennett, 57, died Tuesday at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Doctors didn't give a cause of death, saying only that his condition had begun deteriorating several days earlier.

Bennett's son praised the hospital for offering the last-ditch experiment, saying the family hoped it would help further efforts to end the organ shortage.

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"We are grateful for every innovative moment, every crazy dream, every sleepless night that went into this historic effort," David Bennett Jr. said in a statement released by the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "We hope this story can be the beginning of hope and not the end."

Doctors for decades have sought to one day use animal organs for life-saving transplants.

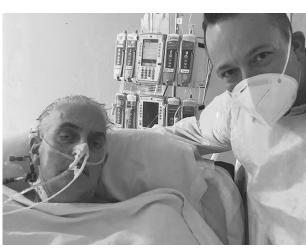
Bennett, a handyman from Hagerstown, Maryland, was a candidate for this newest attempt only because he otherwise faced certain death — ineligible for a human heart transplant, bedridden and on life support, and out of other options.

After the Jan. 7 operation,

Bennett's son said his father knew there was no guarantee it would work.

Prior attempts at such transplants — or xenotransplantation — have failed largely because patients' bodies rapidly rejected the animal organ.

This time, the Maryland surgeons used a heart from a gene-edited pig: Scientists had modified the animal to remove pig genes that trig-



Transplant recipient David Bennett, left, is seen with his son in January. **UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

ger the hyperfast rejection and add human genes to help the body accept the organ.

At first the pig heart was functioning, and the Maryland hospital issued periodic updates that Bennett seemed to be slowly recovering. Last month, the hospital released video of him watching the Super Bowl from his hospital bed while working with his physical therapist.

Bennett survived significantly longer with the gene-edited pig heart than one of the last milestones in xenotransplantation — when Baby Fae, a dying California infant, lived 21 days with a baboon's heart in 1984.

"We are devastated by the loss of Mr. Bennett. He proved to be a brave and noble patient who fought all the way to the end," Dr. Bartley Griffith, who performed the surgery at the Baltimore hospital, said in a statement.

Other transplant experts praised the Maryland team's landmark research and said Bennett's death shouldn't slow the push to figure out how to use animal organs to save human lives.

organs to save human lives.
"This was a first step into
uncharted territory," said
Dr. Robert Montgomery
of NYU Langone Health,
a transplant surgeon who

received his own heart transplant. "A tremendous amount of information" will contribute to the next steps as teams at several transplant centers plan the first clinical trials.

"It was an incredible feat that he was kept alive for two months and was able to enjoy his family," Montgomery added.

The need for another source of organs is huge. More than 41,000 transplants were performed in the U.S. last year, a record—including about 3,800 heart transplants. But more than 106,000 people remain on the national waiting list, thousands die every year before getting an organ and thousands more never even get added to the list, considered too much of a long shot.

The Food and Drug Administration had allowed the dramatic Maryland experiment under "compassionate use" rules for emergency situations. Bennett's doctors said he had heart failure and an irregular heartbeat, plus a history of not complying with medical instructions. He was deemed ineligible for a human heart transplant that requires strict use of immune-suppressing medicines, or the remaining alternative, an implanted heart pump.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

American freed from Venezuelan custody says nightmare over

From news services

WASHINGTON — One of two Americans freed from custody in Venezuela said Wednesday that his family's nightmare had ended, but that his five colleagues who are still detained "deserve the same blessings."

In a statement, Gustavo Cardenas expressed happiness to be home after an imprisonment of more than four years that he said "has caused a lot of suffering and pain, much more than I can explain with my words."

But he said he is praying for five colleagues from the Citgo oil company who were not released.

He also thanked the U.S officials who helped secure his release.

The Venezuelan government freed the two Americans as it seeks to improve relations with the Biden administration amid Russia's war with Ukraine.

Cardenas was released following a secret weekend visit to Venezuela by senior Biden administration officials, the first White House trip to the country in more than two decades.

Also freed was Jorge Alberto Fernandez, who was arrested last year on what the White House described as "spurious charges."

"These men are fathers who lost precious time with their children and everyone they love, and their families have suffered every day of their absence," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

The release came hours after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro signaled an interest in improving relations at a time when Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sparked concerns in the United States over rising gas prices. In a televised address, Maduro appeared to indicate he was willing to accede to

U.S. demands that he resume negotiations with his opponents as a building block for any relief from U.S. sanctions that have been punishing the OPEC nation for years.

U.S. officials have not detailed any other specific outcomes of the talks, but said the release reflected months of relationship-building.

Australia flooding: Australia's prime minister declared a national emergency Wednesday as more than a week of severe rain along the country's eastern coast has caused some of the worst flooding in the country's history.

Scott Morrison said that the declaration would fasttrack aid and supplies to the most devastated areas, where the bodies of missing people have been found submerged in floodwaters, and dozens of evacuation orders have forced thousands from their homes. At least 20 people have died in the flooding, and more than 60,000 people are under evacuation orders, according to authorities.

Parts of Sydney have had more than 34 inches of rain this year.

US hate report: The number of white nationalist, neo-Nazi and anti-government extremist groups across the U.S. fell for a third consecutive year in 2021, even as some groups were reinvigorated by the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, and ongoing culture wars over the pandemic and school curricula.

In its annual report, released Wednesday, the Southern Poverty Law Center said it identified 733 active hate groups in 2021, down from the 838 in 2020 and 940 in 2019. Hate groups had risen to a historic high of 1,021 in 2018, said the law center, which tracks racism. xenophobia and far-right



Endurance found: Researchers discovered the wreck of polar explorer Ernest Shackleton's ship in 10,000 feet of water, a century after it was swallowed up by Antarctic ice. A team used an icebreaker ship and underwater drones to locate the wreck in the Weddell Sea. The ship was recorded to have sunk in 1915. FALKLANDS MARITIME HERITAGE TRUST/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The number of anti-government groups fell to 488 in 2021, down from 566 in 2020 and 576 in 2019. Such groups peaked at 1,360 in 2012, the year former President Barack Obama was elected to a second term.

Beyond the Capitol attack, the law center's report details how several factions of the far right movement have been reinvigorated by political wedge issues.

Issues fueling active hate and anti-government extremist groups include the banning of critical race theory and books that discuss LGBTQ identity in public schools, coronavirus vaccine and mask mandates, and immigration.

Election clerks indicted: A grand jury in Colorado has indicted a county election clerk who sowed doubt about the 2020 presidential election, alleging she was part of a "deceptive scheme" to breach voting system technology that is used across the country, according to the indictment made public Wednesday.

Tina Peters, a Republican elected in 2018 to oversee elections in Mesa County, was charged with seven felony and three misdemeanor counts, including attempting to influence a public servant, criminal impersonation and first-degree official misconduct. Also facing charges is Deputy Clerk Belinda Knis-

The indictment alleges that Peters and Knisley were part of a "deceptive scheme ... designed to influence public servants, breach security protocols, exceed permissible access to voting equipment, and set in motion the eventual distribution of confidential information to unauthorized people."

Attempts to get a comment from Peters on Wednesday

were unsuccessful. An attorney for Knisley did not return multiple calls

seeking comment.

Ontario mask mandate: Canada's largest province is removing mask mandates March 21 in most settings, including schools, officials announced Wednesday.

The province of Ontario said improving health indicators and declining hospitalizations, as well as Ontario's high vaccination rates and the availability of antiviral treatments, allow for these steps.

The announcement came as 1,974 new COVID-19 cases were reported Wednesday in the province.

But Dr. Kieran Moore, chief medical officer of health for the province, has said that limits on testing mean that the true number is likely 10 times that amount.

Governor abduction plot: The four men charged with planning to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer were swayed by informants and federal agents who targeted them for their anti-government views, defense attorneys said Wednesday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Roth argued that the men were "willing, eager, if not already preparing" to get Whitmer before investigators infiltrated the group. He said the men – angry about COVID-19 restrictions the governor imposed early in the pandemic - recruited militia and prepared to break into Whitmer's home, tie her up and take her.

Investigators stepped in and stopped a "tragedy' when the men were planning to acquire a bomb to blow up a bridge near Whitmer's home to stop police from quickly responding, Roth told jurors during his opening statement in federal court in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Brandon Caserta, Barry Croft Jr., Adam Fox and Daniel Harris are accused of taking critical steps over several months, including secret messaging, gun drills in the woods and a night drive to northern Michigan to scout Whitmer's second

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BUSINESS

Biden opens door for Fed to explore a digital dollar

Executive order directs agencies to weigh risks, gains of a US cryptocurrency

By Fatima Hussein

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order on government oversight of cryptocurrency that urges the Federal Reserve to explore whether the central bank should jump in and create its own digital currency.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the effort would "promote a fairer, more inclusive and more efficient financial system," while countering illicit finance and preventing risks to financial stability and national security.

The Biden administration views the popularity of cryptocurrency as an opportunity to examine the risks and benefits of digital assets, said a senior administration official who previewed the order Tuesday on the condition of anonymity, terms set by the White House.

Under the executive order, Biden also directed the Treasury Department and other federal agencies to study the impact of cryptocurrency on financial stability and national security.

Brian Deese and Jake Sullivan, Biden's top economic and national security advisers, respectively, said the order establishes the first comprehensive federal digital assets strategy for the United States.

"That will help position the U.S. to keep playing a leading role in the innovation and governance of the digital assets ecosystem at home and abroad, in a way that protects consumers, is consistent with our democratic values and advances U.S. global competitiveness," Deese and Sullivan said Wednesday in a joint statement. The action comes as lawmakers and

administration officials are increasingly voicing concern that Russia may be using cryptocurrency to avoid the impact of sanctions imposed on its banks, oligarchs and oil industry due to the invasion of Ukraine.

The Biden administration has argued that Russia won't be able to make up for the loss of U.S. and European business by turning to cryptocurrency.

The executive order had been widely anticipated by the finance industry, cryptocurrency traders, speculators and lawmakers who have compared the cryptocurrency market to the Wild West.

Despite the risks, the government said, surveys show that roughly 16% of adult Americans — or 40 million people — have invested in cryptocurrencies. And 43% of men age 18-29 have put their money into

As for the Federal Reserve getting involved with digital assets, the central bank issued a paper in January that said a digital currency "would best serve the needs" of the country through a model in which banks or payment firms create accounts or digital wallets.

Some participants in digital currency welcome the idea of more government

involvement with cryptocurrency.
Adam Zarazinski, CEO of Inca Digital, a cryptocurrency data company that does work for several federal agencies, said the order presents the opportunity to provide "new approaches to finance," adding that "the U.S. has an interest in growing financial innovation."



Both Russia and Ukraine are major exporters of wheat. Above, farmers working near the Russian village of Tbilisskaya. VITALY TIMKIV/AP 2021

Fields become part of battle

Russia's war in the world's 'breadbasket' threatens food supply — and livelihoods

By Joseph Wilson, Samy Magdy, Aya Batrawy and Chinedu Asadu Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain - The Russian tanks and missiles besieging Ukraine also are threatening the food supply and livelihoods of people in Europe, Africa and Asia who rely on the vast, fertile farmlands of the Black Sea region – known as the "breadbasket of the world."

Ukrainian farmers have been forced to neglect their fields as millions flee, fight or try to stay alive. Ports are shut down that send wheat and other food staples worldwide to be made into bread, noodles and animal feed. And there are worries Russia. another agricultural powerhouse, could have its grain exports upended by Western

Wheat prices have surged 55% since a week before the invasion, and could go higher now that Ukraine's government introduced agricultural rules this week banning the export of wheat, oats and

other staples that are crucial for global food supplies as Kyiv's authorities try to ensure they can feed people during Russia's intensifying war.

That could create food insecurity and throw more people into poverty in places like Egypt and Lebanon, where diets are dominated by government-subsidized bread. In Europe, officials were already preparing for potential shortages of products from Ukraine and increased prices for livestock feed that could mean more expensive meat and dairy if farmers are forced to pass along costs to customers.

Russia and Ukraine combine for nearly a third of the world's wheat and barley exports. Ukraine also is a major supplier of corn and the global leader in sunflower oil, used in food processing. Any reduction in food supplies would come just when prices are at their highest levels since 2011.

War-ravaged Syria recently announced it would cut spending and ration staples. In Lebanon, where a massive explosion at the Beirut port in 2020 destroyed the country's main grain silos, authorities are scrambling to make up for a predicted wheat shortage, with Ukraine providing 60% of its supply. They are in talks with the U.S., India and Canada to find other sources for a country in financial meltdown.

African countries imported agricultural products worth \$4 billion from Russia in 2020, and about 90% was wheat, said Wandile Sihlobo, chief economist for the Agricultural Business Chamber of South

In Nigeria, flour millers believe a shortage of wheat from Russia would affect the price of products like bread.

"All of us need to look elsewhere" in the future, said Tope Ogun with Honeywell Flour Mills Plc, one of Nigeria's biggest flour milling companies. "We might not get what we need to, and there is likely going to be an increase in the price."

Nigeria has worked to reduce its reliance on Russian grains, with farmers moving to plant more wheat fields to try to meet 70% of the country's demand in five years, said Gambo Sale, national secretary of the Wheat Farmers Association of Nigeria.

"We have the land, we have the people, we have the money, we have whatever we can need in Nigeria" to grow wheat, he said. "All we need now is time."

Farmers in the United States, the world's leading corn exporter and a major wheat supplier, are watching to see if U.S. wheat exports spike.

Open jobs near record, add to price pressures

By Christopher Rugaber Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. businesses posted a near-record level of open jobs in January, a trend that has helped push up worker's pay and added to inflationary pressures in the U.S. economy.

Employers posted 11.3 million jobs at the end of January, down slightly from a record of 11.4 million in December, the Labor Department said Wednesday.

The number of people quitting their jobs slipped to 4.25 million, down from 4.4 million, though January's figure is still 23% above pre-pandemic levels. Millions of people are taking advantage of numerous opportunities to switch jobs, often for higher pay. The vast majority of those quitting do so to take another position.

The figures are for January and as a result do not reflect any potential impact from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, though few economists anticipate the war will reduce hiring in the immediate future.

Average hourly pay increased 5.1% in February compared with a year earlier, according to U.S. statistics released last week, a rapid gain that forces companies to either become more efficient or raise prices to offset their higher labor costs. In some industries such as restaurants, large pay gains for workers have driven prices higher. Wednesday's report underscores the

distorted nature of the job market after two years of the pandemic. There are 1.7 available jobs for every unemployed worker, which has led to widespread complaints among businesses about worker shortages. That's good for employees if it enables them to demand higher pay.

But it can also clog up supply chains if trucking and other logistics firms can't meet demand for shipments.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Calif. to set own emissions rules

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is restoring California's authority to set its own tailpipe pollution standards for cars, reversing a Trump administration policy and likely ushering in stricter emissions standards for new passenger vehicles nationwide.

A waiver approved Wednesday by the **Environmental Protection Agency allows** California to set tough emissions rules for cars and SUVs and impose mandates for so-called zero-emission vehicles that do not contribute to global warming.

At least 15 states and the District of Columbia have signed on to California's vehicle standards, which are stricter than federal rules and designed to address the state's severe air pollution problems.

BMW recalling older cars, SUVs

DETROIT - BMW is recalling more than 917,000 older cars and SUVs in the U.S. most for a third time — to fix a problem that can cause engine compartment fires. The recall covers many 3 Series, 5 Series, 1 Series, X5, X3, and Z4 vehicles from the 2006 through 2013 model years.

Documents posted Wednesday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say there could be an electrical short in the positive crankcase ventilation valve heater. It can overheat and cause a fire.

The risk occurs while the vehicles are being driven or after they are parked. BMW says the vehicles can still be driven and don't have to be parked outdoors because fires have been rare. BMW wouldn't comment when asked if fires have spread to buildings.

Lawmakers ask for DOJ probe of Amazon

By Marcy Gordon Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Lawmakers followed through Wednesday on their threat to seek a criminal investigation of Amazon, asking the Justice Department to investigate whether the tech giant and senior executives obstructed Congress or violated other federal laws in testimony on its competition

The House Judiciary Committee escalated the bipartisan battle against the world's biggest online retailer with a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland referring the case for a criminal inquiry.

Amazon engaged in misleading conduct that appeared designed to "influence, obstruct or impede" the antitrust subcommittee's 2019-20 investigation into the market dominance of Big Tech, the letter

As an example, it cited testimony by a senior Amazon official maintaining that the company doesn't use the data it collects on third-party merchants on its platform to compete with them, and doesn't list its own products in customer search results before those of third parties. Those assertions have been contradicted by credible news reports, the letter says.

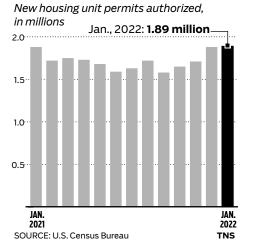
News reports have detailed Amazon's alleged practice of undercutting the businesses that sell on its platform by making "knock-offs," or very similar products, and boosting their presence on the site.

"Amazon attempted to clean up the inaccurate testimony through ever-shifting explanations of its internal policies and denials of the investigative reports," the lawmakers said. "The committee uncovered evidence from former Amazon employees, and former and current sellers, that corroborated the reports' claims."

"After Amazon was caught in a lie and repeated misrepresentations, it stonewalled the committee's efforts to uncover the truth," the letter says. It was signed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., and the Democratic and Republican leaders of the antitrust subcom-

The Seattle-based company has denied that its executives misled the panel.

New residential construction



BUSINESS



Mississippi sandhill cranes are one of the dozens of species of wildlife determined last year to be in jeopardy from the use of the highly toxic pesticide malathion. GERALD HERBERT/AP 2012

US reverses its findings on pesticide's danger to wildlife

By Matthew Brown Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. -U.S. wildlife officials have reversed their previous finding that a widely used and highly toxic pesticide could jeopardize dozens of plants and animals with extinction, after receiving pledges from chemical manufacturers that they will change product labels for malathion.

Federal regulations for malathion have been under review in response to longstanding complaints that the pesticide kills many protected plants and animals. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined last April that malathion could threaten the existence of 78 imperiled species and cause lesser harm to many more.

Wildlife officials reversed their position on the 78 species in a Feb. 28 biological opinion following talks between malathion manufacturers, officials from the wildlife service and the **Environmental Protection** Agency, according to documents reviewed in advance of their public release.

Wildlife service officials now say malathion could cause limited harm to hundreds of species, but is unlikely to jeopardize any of them with extinction, as long as labels that dictate its use are changed.

"The Service worked with EPA, the malathion registrants and USDA to develop general and species-specific conservation measures that significantly reduce many of the effects of malathion use on listed species and their critical habitats," said Gary Frazer, the wildlife service's assistant director for ecological services.

The manufacturers agreed to use labels that provide extensive guidelines on when and where malathion should be used to avoid killing wildlife. For example, the labels would say not to spray malathion to kill mosquitoes during the middle of the day, when bees and some other insects are more active.

The species that were found in jeopardy last year included birds such as the Mississippi sandhill crane.

Every year almost a million pounds of malathion are used on crops in

Close to 2 million pounds is used every year in home gardens, for mosquito control and other non-crop uses, according to data from a 2018 government survey. The amount used on farmland has fallen by about two-thirds since its 1998

peak, according to the data. Malathion is considered highly toxic to insects, fish and crustaceans. International health officials have said the chemical is probably carcinogenic to humans.

The review of malathion's impacts on wildlife came under a legal agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity. The group first sued the EPA two decades ago, for failing to consult with other federal agencies about the risks of pesticides on wildlife and plants, and filed more lawsuits leading up to its 2013 settlement with the

Fish and Wildlife Service. A separate review of malathion's affects on species is pending from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The agency said in a Feb. 25 draft that malathion could jeopardize 37 species.

Progress slowing on path to gender parity in boardrooms

By Stan Choe Associated Press

NEW YORK - Almost extinct are the days when only men sat on U.S. corporate boards. But the speed at which boards have brought more women to the table has slowed, and it's likely to be a decade before boards are evenly split by gender.

One of every 4 directors at U.S. publicly traded companies was a woman at the end of last year, at 26.7%. That's up from 23.5% one year earlier and 15.1% five years earlier. The numbers come from an analysis by executive-data firm Equilar of companies in the Russell 3000 index, which includes 97% of all investable U.S. stocks. So progress is continuing, with boards now more than halfway toward potentially having half their members be women.

Across the country, women make up 50.8% of the population.

But the pace of progress has slowed following big leaps in earlier years. If changes continue at their current pace, Equilar says corporate boardrooms could be 50% female by 2032. That's the same estimate it gave 12 months ago.

In earlier years, that projection was rapidly moving toward the present, from 2055 to 2030, before stalling.

Another recent report from Deloitte said corporate boardrooms around the world could reach gender parity in 2045. That's an acceleration from its prior estimate of 2052, published three years earlier.

One reason for the stilllong timeline ahead may be that the easiest gains have already been made.

Only 80 companies had all-male boards at the end of 2021, according to Equilar's survey. That's down from 738 five years earlier.

Much of the initial prog-



was female at the end of 2021. Above, the Fearless Girl bronze sculpture in New York. BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP 2020

ress happened as companies faced pressure to ensure at least one woman was on their board.

In some cases, it was a requirement. California enacted a law in 2018 requiring publicly held companies with principal executive offices in the state to have at least one female director by the end of 2019.

But boards may increasingly see the benefits of having more diversity, rather than just "checking the box" after adding one woman and moving on.

"In the past when I was on a leadership team, I had to really fight to have my voice be listened to, sometimes even at the executive table," said Mary Zimmer, who retired in 2019 after more than 35 years in the financial services industry. She recently joined the board of Alerus Financial, based in Grand Forks, North Dakota, and is one of five women on the 10-person board.

Now, she said, well-run companies are heeding the business case for diversity.

Increased diversity can only help companies stay in better tune with their customers, who are becoming increasingly diverse themselves. It also sends a message to the company's workforce that women have career paths upward.

"Oftentimes you get skipped over, and you don't even know it," Zimmer said.

Investors in companies are also doing their own lobbying, with many saying they want more diversity of thought in the boardroom because it can lead to better performance and bigger long-term gains.

Research suggests companies with more diverse boardrooms and executive suites tend to have stronger profits and returns over the long term, though researchers caution it's tough to say definitively whether increased diversity causes the strength or whether better-run companies tend to have more diversity.

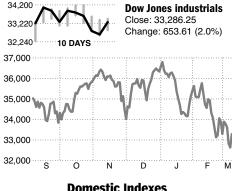
A recent study by McKinsey said that companies whose boards are in the top quartile of gender diversity are 28% more likely than their peers to outperform financially.

MARKET RUNDOWN Thursday, March 10, 2022









D	omestic I	ndexes	
	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	33,286.25	+653.61	-8.40%
DOW Trans.	15,142.78	+406.18	-8.10%
DOW Util.	974.13	-5.54	68%
NYSE Comp.	15,977.54	+351.61	-6.91%
Nasdaq Comp.	13,255.55	+459.99	-15.27%
S&P 500	4,277.88	+107.18	-10.25%
S&P 400	2,597.11	+70.89	-8.62%
Wilshire 5000	43,128.36	+1,138.92	-11.00%
Russell 2000	2,016.29	+53.28	-10.20%

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CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
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	Canada	.7794	1.2830	3-mo. T-Bill	0.39	0.33		
	China	.1583	6.3177	6-mo. T-Bill	0.74	0.67		
	Euro	1.1077	.9028	5-yr T-Note	1.87	1.74		
	Japan	.008631	115.85	10-yr T-Note	1.94	1.86		
	Mexico	.047889	20.8816	30-yr T-Bond	2.30	2.24		
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Frankfurt	13,847.93	+1,016.42	+7.92%	-12.82%
London	7,190.72	+226.61	+3.25%	-2.62%
Hong Kong	20,627.71	-138.16	67%	-11.84%
Nikkei	24,717.53	-73.42	30%	-14.15%

YTD

Stocks of Local Interest YTD |

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG	
AT&T Inc (T)	23.26	+.26	-5.4	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	198.50	+8.21	-41.0	
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	111.05	+5.52	-22.8	MetLife Inc (MET)	64.44	+2.48	+3.1	
American Airlines Gp (AAL)		+.79	-20.4	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	288.50	+12.65	-14.2	
Amphenol Corp (APH)	74.91	+2.37	-14.3	Mullen Automotive (MULN)	1.15	09	-78.0	
Apple Inc (AAPL)	162.95	+5.51	-8.2	Natera Inc (NTRA)	36.80	-17.95	-60.6	
AST SpaceMobile CI A (AST	S) 9.78	+3.03	+23.2	Novartis AG (NVS)	82.15	+2.04	-6.1	
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	45.18	14	-9.4	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	230.14		-0.1	
Bank of America (BAC)	41.04	+2.45	-7.8				+98.3	
Barnes Group (B)	43.12	+.81	-7.4	Occid Petl (OXY)	57.50	+3.03		
Barrick Gold (GOLD)	24.33	-1.03	+28.1	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	75.26	+1.76	-13.6	
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Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	68.13	+.39	+9.3	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.39	+.59	+14.4	
Bumble Inc (BMBL)	23.64	+6.98	-30.2	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	48.75	+1.31	-17.4	
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OPINION

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Trump's Putin worship repugnant



Jonah Goldberg

"I went in yesterday and there was a television screen, and I said, 'This is genius.' Putin declares a big portion of the Ukraine, of Ukraine, Putin declares it as independent. Oh, that's wonderful," Trump

said on a radio show the day after Russian President Vladimir Putin launched his unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

"So Putin is now saying, 'It's independent,' a large section of Ukraine. I said, 'How smart is that?' And he's going to go in and be a peacekeeper. That's the strongest peace force," Trump added. "We could use that on our southern border. That's the strongest peace force I've ever seen. ... Here's a guy who's very savvy. ... I know him very well. Very, very well."

Trump's comments quickly generated a lot of justified condemnation. But it bothered me that most of the criticism seemed to center on Trump's use of the terms "savvy" and "genius," and not "wonderful." The former are descriptive terms while the latter is normative. After all, one can believe that Putin is brilliant while also being evil. But saying that the initiation of

lawless slaughter is "wonderful" is morally grotesque. It's all the more repugnant when you realize that Trump was celebrating Putin's propaganda that he was merely sending in "peacekeepers" while suggesting there's nothing wrong with Russia falsely declaring conquered territory is "independent."

Eventually it dawned on Trump that he misread the moment. At the Conservative Political Action Conference he offered a real condemnation. "The Russian attack on the Ukraine is appalling. It's an outrage and an atrocity that should never have been allowed to occur." Reasonable people can debate the depth of his sincerity. Though it seems to me that if your first reaction to lawless slaughter is to marvel at the wonderful brilliance of it, you've told us who you are.

But we knew who Trump is. From his respect for the Chinese government's slaughter of pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square to the invasion of Ukraine, Trump has long demonstrated his attraction to brutality and "strength." Last week, he praised the authority shown by North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un and "joked" that he wished his generals had been as terrified of him.

Overlooked in the bloody days since his initial celebration is how utterly wrong Trump was about the man he claims to know "very, very well." Trump's problem is the problem with all power worship. It clouds the mind and corrupts the soul, rewriting not just objectivity but moral calculus too. As Orwell observed, power worship leads us to believe that "whoever is winning at the moment will always seem to be invincible" so any moral objections are seen as not just folly, but the whining of suckers and losers.

Trump and his die-hard defenders insist Putin wouldn't have invaded Ukraine if he were president. Given that Putin continued his conquest of eastern Ukraine throughout Trump's presidency and that Putin had a reasonable hope that Trump would try to pull out of NATO if reelected, not to mention his reluctance to impose sanctions and his abiding strongman-sycophancy, it doesn't seem Putin was intimidated.

The more interesting question is, why would Trump object to Putin's invasion of Ukraine if he were president? He didn't seem to see anything particularly wrong with Putin's initial attack. He claims he would have stopped Putin, and yet once the invasion happened on President Joe

Biden's watch, he deemed it "wonderful." Normal former presidents tend to think our national interests extend beyond their time in office. But not Trump.

Trump recently told Fox Business host Maria Bartiromo that China will invade Taiwan "because they're seeing how stupid the United States is run."

Earlier on, as Russia massed more than 100,000 troops at the Ukrainian border, Biden was castigated for seeming to suggest that a "minor incursion" into Ukraine by Putin might not invite as forceful a response from the U.S. and the international community as a full invasion might. Many on the right correctly condemned Biden for sending a provocative message of weakness. It's hard to fathom how Trump — the putative 2024 GOP nominee — peddling idiocy about Putin and China wouldn't invite similar or greater outrage.

But that's what power worship does. And, like Trump himself, his worshipers can see the world around them only through a prism of us-against-them, in which principles simply don't count.

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Time to rethink the daily commute

By Brooke Sutherland
Bloomberg Opinion

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is fueling sticker shock at the pump for Americans and sharpening already uneasy feelings about the impact of inflation. Why then are we in such a hurry to end pandemic-era work-from-home policies and force employees to commute to offices again?

"It's time for Americans to get back to work and fill our great downtowns again," President Joe Biden said during this month's State of the Union address. "You can't stay home in your pajamas all day," New York City Mayor Eric Adams said in a recent speech aimed at encouraging local employers to bring workers back to the city's still relatively empty offices. Both comments were well-intentioned: There is a cost in keeping wide swaths of the working population out of city skyscrapers — to local restaurants, to fare-funded mass transit systems and to broader perceptions of urban vitality and safety. Declining COVID-19 case counts across the U.S. present an opportunity to reverse some of that pain.

But there's also a cost to resuming the pre-pandemic daily grind, one that's more acute as Russia's hostilities and increasingly aggressive sanctions in response send shockwaves through energy markets. Driving was the most popular commuting option in the U.S. in 2017 but also the most expensive, with an annual median cost of \$2,782, according to a survey sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The average national cost of gas was elevated that year relative to recent history as the oil industry recovered from a 2014-2015 slump but pales in comparison to today's prices. U.S. regular unleaded prices averaged \$2.49 a gallon in 2017; the national cost hit a record on Monday at \$4.17, according to AAA. (Adjusted for inflation, gas prices were higher in 2008, when the average price per gallon reached roughly \$5.37, and they don't cause as



Drivers in Los Angeles on a mostly empty highway in March 2020 after the county announced a near-lockdown. FREDERIC J. BROWN/GETTY-AFP

much pain as they used to. Still, Americans are feeling the pinch.)

Both the European Union and the U.S. are racing to rejigger their energy strategies as Western leaders contemplate ways to increase the economic penalties for Russia's decision to start an unprompted war in Ukraine. The Biden administration on Tuesday announced a ban on U.S. imports of Russian fossil fuels including oil. The U.K. announced a similar move, though it will continue to allow imports of natural gas and coal, Bloomberg News reported. Meanwhile, the European Union's executive arm is mapping out a path to curb its use of Russian gas by almost 80% this year. Such a reordering of energy markets — unthinkable just weeks ago - would obviously entail a reconsideration of supply, whether the source is U.S. shale companies, alternative imports of liquid natural gas or renewable energy. But these policies would be more effective and ultimately less painful at home if governments consider the demand side of the equation as well. Encouraging companies to let employees continue working from home — as so many did for much of the past two years — would be a start.

Fossil fuel demand collapsed during the pandemic as cars stayed parked, businesses closed temporarily and global air travel ground to a virtual halt. The U.S. consumed about 124 billion gallons of finished motor gasoline in 2020, or roughly 8 million

barrels a day, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That was the lowest level since 1997 and a 14% slide from the use record set in 2018. It wasn't that long ago — April 2020 — that oil prices briefly turned negative as the demand drop fueled an inventory glut.

Interestingly, even though people spent significantly more time at home during 2020, U.S. residential energy consumption declined relative to 2019 as the benefits of relatively warmer winter weather curbed demand for natural gas and other heating sources and offset higher retail electricity sales to the sector, according to the EIA.

While there are undoubtedly economic knock-on effects, the mass COVID-19 experiment in working from home wasn't the drag on productivity that pajama critics like New York's mayor seem to envision. This is something we know how to do and have generally done quite well. As a group, Americans who previously drove to work saved an estimated \$758 million a day by working from home instead during the pandemic, according to a 2020 analysis by Upwork economist Adam Ozimek. That includes \$183 million in direct commuting cost savings, plus the value of recouped time previously spent in the car and the environmental and safety benefits of having fewer drivers on the road.

Before the war in Ukraine, many Republicans framed inflation as a political failure on the part of Biden and some have drawn

unflattering (and often poorly argued) comparisons to President Jimmy Carter, who battled his own crisis of sky-high energy prices. Carter tried to reduce the U.S.'s dependence on foreign oil in part by appealing to Americans' sense of civic self-sacrifice, infamously donning a cardigan sweater as he urged constituents to turn down thermostats. A call for Americans to curb their driving risks reviving the Biden-Carter comparisons. The difference now is that working from home is incredibly popular.

Some 60% of workers with jobs that can be done from home say they'd like to stay remote all or most of the time once the pandemic fades, up from 54% in 2020, according to a January Pew Research survey. Among workers whose offices are accessible now, more than three-quarters said a chief reason that they were still teleworking all or most of the time was because they preferred it. Indeed, office utilization has remained low even as demand for domestic leisure travel and restaurant reservations has rebounded, as Mark Ein, chairman of Kastle Systems, a provider of managed security services for U.S. commercial office space, pointed out in a recent Bloomberg Opinion column.

As far as patriotic sacrifices go, avoiding the office commute is an easy sell.

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To help Ukraine, make food and migration top priorities

By Tyler CowenBloomberg Opinion

"If you had a billion dollars to spend, how could you best help the world?" It is a question I hear a lot, and with the intensification of the conflict in Ukraine, it has only become more urgent. There is a philosophical movement, effective altruism, devoted to this issue, but mostly the debate about charity has been set in a world with a relatively stable geopolitical order. How should war change the answers?

I don't know how best to help the immediate victims in Ukraine, but I have some ideas about how the conflict should change broader philanthropic priorities. In times of war, it is all the more important to focus altruistic efforts on two issues: food and migration.

During wartime, basic human needs become more pressing, most of all food. For instance, Ukraine supplies much of the world's grain, including to many of the world's poorer countries. The largest importers of Ukrainian grain are Egypt, Turkey, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Pakistan, and in percentage terms Yemen, Libya and Lebanon are especially dependent.

To the extent the conflict and sanctions disrupt Russia as well, Russia is not only a major grain exporter but also the largest exporter of fertilizer.

With so much of Ukraine under siege, these supplies are a mix of blockaded or endangered, thereby creating hunger and malnutrition risk for grain importers.

Increasing the productivity of agriculture, especially in poorer countries, now should be a higher priority. When food supply from one source such as Ukraine is shut off, poorer nations should have other supply options. The Green Revolution has been wonderful for India and Pakistan by increasing crop yields — but much more agricultural innovation is necessary.

agricultural innovation is necessary.

One danger is that a more conflict-prone world will become more protectionist and restrictionist, to ensure the availability of domestic supplies, whether of food or other commodities. That would make it harder for the poorest and most victimized societies to find alternate supply sources when faced with crises. The goal should be a world with plentiful food and relatively free trade, not national self-sufficiency.

The important point is how the relative calculus changes in times of major conflict.

In a world at peace, public health interventions yield high returns, and they probably still will in wartime. But their relative benefits, compared to other interventions, may diminish. Saving lives with medicine is worthwhile, but many medicines are expensive. If lives can be saved by the mere shipment and trade of food — and at a profit at that — then that will be preferred over saving lives with medicine.

The transfer of public health services also may be less damaged by wartime conditions. Often the public health remedies come from the U.S., Western Europe, or a small number of other relatively wealthy countries. Those countries are less likely to be affected by major wars. So if a major war does come along, the flow of such public health remedies probably requires less repair work than does the flow of food. Unlike advanced medicines, foodstuffs are very frequently traded from one poor or middle-income country to another. Another philanthropic priority in wartime is the discovery and reallocation of talent. Before, during and after World War II, for instance, a significant portion of Europe's cultural and scientific talent moved to the U.S. or other Anglo countries. Both the U.S. and the global scientific community were much better off as a result.

It is thus all the more imperative that talented people leaving Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have good options. Not only could their talents be squandered if they stay, but their productivity could be improved if they leave. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have reasonable education systems and long histories of producing gifted artists and scientists.

How good is the infrastructure for getting people out of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus? How readily can the refugees be matched to where they ought to go? Is there supportive infrastructure along the way? What about the Russians who are outside of Russia's border and don't want to go back — what kind of legal status might they hope to achieve?

Heroic efforts are being made to help the Ukrainian refugees, but much of it is improvised. The world can do much better, including for citizens of Russia and Belarus, and I hope we will.

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STATE OF CONNECTICUT JOINT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT

REQUEST FOR BID

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 2-71p of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, that the Joint Committee on Legislative Management of the Connecticut General Assembly has issued a Request for Bid Old State House Piping Repair JCLM22REG0049.

Bid responses must be received no later than 4/8/2022 12:00 pm (Noon) at CGAContracting@cga.ct.gov.

with the specifications and forms supplied in the Request for Bid. This Request for Bid is posted on the Department of Administrative Services CT Source Contract Board website which can be found at the following address: https://portal.ct.gov/DAS/CTSource/ ContractBoard. 3/10/22 7164883

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LEGAL NOTICE ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS SOUTH STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT TATE PROJECT No. L032-0004

The Town of Coventry, Connecticut is seeking sealed bids for furnishing all labor, tools, materials and equipment required for the Reconstruction of South Street & Pedestrian Improvements. Bids will be received until 2:00 P.M., local time, April 7, 2022 at the Town Manager's Office, Town Hall, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238, after which no further bids will be accepted. The bid opening will immediately follow after the bid deadline.

The Issuing Office is: Action Blueprint at 284 Broad Street, Manchester, Connecticut. Contact by phone 860-647-1223 or by email orders@actionblueprint.com for details. Prospective Bidders may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below. All orders must be placed phone or email ONLY. Pick up will be arranged by the time of ordering. Printed copies of the Bidding Documents will be made upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$205.00 for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall

set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to "Action Blueprint". There will be an additional charge for mailing to be determined at the time of contact. To receive the documents via package services, send a completed pre-paid pickup label from UPS to the Issuing Office. PDF copies are available upon request after the receipt of the nonrefundable fee. The date that the Bidding Documents are

transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the Bidder's date of receipt of the Bidding Documents. Partial sets of Bidding Documents, Partial sets of blooming Documents will not be available from the Issuing Office. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents, including Addenda if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Standard Specifications 818

Form 818 Standard Specifications and Supplemental Specifications may be obtained via the Connecticut Department of Transportation's website: http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=3609&q=430362. All Proposals must be on the form furnished by the Town of Coventry and must be requested for the above-named project. Each Bidder must deposit with his/her bid a certified check, or a bid bond, for not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid as provided in the Information for Bidders.

THIS CONTRACT IS SUBJECT TO STATE SET-ASIDE AND CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The attention of the Bidders is called to the requirement for minimum wage rates to be requirement for minimum paid under this Contract.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids in whole or in part, to award any item, group of items, or total bid and to waive any informality or technical defects, if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town

No Bidder may withdraw their bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

CONTRACTORS that find discrepancies and/ or errors in or between plans, specifications, quantities and other matters, must imme-diately notify Todd Penney, PE., 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238 or at tpenney@ coventryct.org in writing not less than ten (10) days before the scheduled bid opening. John A. Elsesser Town Manager Town of Coventry Equal Opportunity Employer

HENDRICXSEN JAIDEE LLC

Request for Qualifications for Architectural and Engineering Professional Services The Hendricxser-Jaidee LLC extends an invitation to a team of architects, engineers, and energy consultants to submit a statement of their qualifications for the rehabilitation of two affordable housing sites located in Hartford and East Hartford totaling 115 apartments. and Last Hartford tofaling 115 apartments. The team of professionals should indicate their ability to perform work required in a timely and sufficient manner as required by CHFA, DOH and LIHTC funding sources. All respondents must be licensed to perform services in the State of Connecticut. A copy of the detailed Request for Qualifications can be requested by emailing Jessica Lopez at Jess@distinctivehomesct.com or by calling 860-819-4962 thru March 18h.

860-819-4962 thru March 18h. Formal responses are due by March 25th. HENDRICXSEN JAIDEE LLC IS AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER - Small Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Women Owned Business Enterprises and Disabled Persons are encouraged to reply. 3/10, 3/11/2022 7166210

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Chambers of Iown Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury, with an option for Zoom video conferencing (Zoom information provided on Town website) for the final review of the proposed 2022-2023 annual budgets. Budgets will include the General Fund, Capital Reserve Fund and Special Revenue Funds.

The proposed General Fund appropriations for 2022-2023 are: \$47 160 184

Town Operating Debt Service & Transfers

Debt Service & Transfers \$13,457,486 Education \$116,937,381 Total \$177,555,051 A transfer of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund Unassigned Fund to the Pension Fund is proposed. The proposed Capital Improvement Program appropriation for 2022-2023 from Capital Reserve is \$8,119,100 from Town Aid Road is \$451,217 and from Sewer Sinking Fund is \$250,000. Is \$451,217 and from Sewer Sinking Fund is \$250,000.

The proposed Special Revenue Fund appropriation for the Sewer Operating Fund for 2022-2023 is \$3,298,217.

Dated at Glastonbury, CT this 9th day of March, 2022. GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL By: Tom Gullotta, Chairman 3/10/2022 7166765

LEGAL NOTICE AND INVITATION TO BID THE OPERA HOUSE PLAYERS RENOVATION
OF 100 HIGH ST, ENFIELD
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

Connecticut

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Opera House Players is seeking a qualified engineering firm to provide services for the renovation of 100 High St. This is a State funded project through the Department of Economic and Community Development.

A mandatory walk-though is scheduled for Tuesday March 15th at 11:00 am. Masks are required to enter the building. RFP responses must be received by 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 28, 2022. Any responses received after the deadline will not be considered. The RFP documents are available on The Opera House Players' website at www.operahouseplayers.org/rfp. Questions may be submitted by email at rfp@operahouseplayers.org. The Opera House Players reserves the right to accept or reject any, all, or any part of the responses, and to make awards that are deemed to be in the best interest of The Opera House Players.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Suffield will conduct a public hearing by the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM In-person in the Town Hall Conference Room, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT 06078, with a remote option via Zoom to discuss the Fiscal Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant program and to solicit citizen input. Zoom Meeting Call in number: 1-646-876-9923 - Meeting Call will number: 1-646-876-9923 - Meeting IS 886 7533 5350 - Meeting Passwort: 890365

Password: 890365 Maximum award limits:
 Up to \$1,500,000 for Public Housing

Modernization (including pre-development and construction); with priority to State Sponsored Housing Portfolio (SSHP).

- Up to \$1,000,000 for Infrastructure associated with the development of Affordable Housing (e.g., streets sidewalks, sewer lines

Major activity categories are: Acquisition, Housing Rehabilitation, Public Housing Modernization, Community Facilities, Public Services, and Economic Development. Projects funded with CDBG allocations must carry out at least one of three National Objectives: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons, elimination of slums and blight, or meeting urgent community develop ment needs.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain Ine purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizen's views on the Town's community development and housing needs and review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be part of the Town's new Application for funding for the

Also, the public hearing will be to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known on the program and for approval of the Program Income Reuse Plan. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you may direct written comments to the Town of Suffield, Planning and Zoning Department, 83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078, or you may email Bhawkins@SuffieldCT. gov, or you may telephone 860-668-3848. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. In addition, information may be obtained at the above address between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon-Thu and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.

The Planning and Zoning Department on behalf of the Town of Suffield anticipates applying for the maximum grant amount of \$1,500,000 under the eligible activity of Public Housing Modernization. In addition, the Town of Suffield will continue its revolving loan fund with program income generated from the housing rehabilitation loan program.

The Town of Suffield promotes fair housing and makes all programs available to low- and moderate-income households regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability or physical/mental disability, or sexual orientation.

All are encouraged to attend. Any disabled persons requiring special assistance or non-English speaking persons should contact Ted Flanders, ADA Coordinator at 860-668-3878 at least five days prior to the hearing. Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Dated this 25th day of February and 10th day of March 2022 2/25. 3/10/2022 7157082 2/25, 3/10/2022 7157082

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SIMSBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – REGULAR

Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 23

MEETING The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Simsbury will hold a Public Hearing at a

2022, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom: https://zoom. us/j/2574297243 on the following: Application #22-04 of John Mayock Owner/Applicant, for variances pursuant to the Simsbury Zoning Regulations Sections 3.5 and 3.9 for the construction of a garage addition that exceeds the maximum height limit and the construction of an exterio staircase within the side yard setback of the property located at 130 Terrys Plain Road (Assessor's Map J08, Block 128, and Lot 004C). Zone R-40.

At this hearing, interested persons may appear via Zoom and be heard on the issues and written communications may be emailed to jhollis@simsbury-ct.gov by 12:00 p.m. on March 23, 2022 to have their com ments read into the record at the hearing. A copy of the above is on file in the Office of the Simsbury Planning Department, 933 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury Connecticut, for public inspection SIMSBURY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

2 Lines 3 Days FREE*

3/10, 3/17/2022 7165687



*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

Connecticut

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) Food Services: Resident Assistance Program Implementation Town of Mansfield, Connecticut

In order to assure compliance with the Connecticut Department of Housing (DOH) and related requirements regarding competitive negotiation of professional services, the Town of Mansfield is seeking proposals to assist in provision of food assistance to income-eligible residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is being funded through a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant-COVID 19 grant (CDBG-CV) from the State of Connecticut Department of Housing and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Description of Services Needed
The Town is seeking vendor(s) to assist in the provision of perishable and non-perishable groceries to income-eligible residents of Mansfield that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As further described in the scope of work, the Town is seeking proposals that will improve the efficiency of service delivery, which may include technological solutions and/or vendors that will improve the officiency of the provide food directly to reorgam participants. provide food directly to program participants Additional details are provided in the RFP, which is available at http://www.mansfieldct. gov/bids.aspx.

Description of Services Needed

Contract Type The Town of Mansfield will execute a fixed-price contract for these services. All services will be delivered for the agreed upon price.

Proposal Submission Proposal Submission
If you are interested in providing the required services, please note that bids must be submitted through our online, secure E-Procurement Portal: https://mansfieldct.bonfirehub.com/portal/?tab=openOpportunities under the bid title "Food Services:Resident Assistance Program Indementation" Please unload

bld title "Food Services:Résident Assistance Program Implementation". Please upload one (1) copy of all required bid documenta-tion. Qualifications and proposals will be accepted until Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. local time. Proposals received after that time will not be considered. Ridders will be required to create a Bonfire profile before uploading their bid. Step-by-step instructions on how to register as a vendor are available at this website: as a vention are available at this website. https://mansfieldct.bonfirehub.com/ portal/?tab=login. Each Proposal will be reviewed for completeness and clarity ac-

cording to the above criteria. Interviews are expected to be held the week of April 11, The Town may or may not negotiate the fee The Town may or may not negotiate the fee schedule with one or more offers. The Town reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals. The contract is tentatively scheduled to be awarded by the Town by April 15, 2022. An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, Section 3 Contractors and Minority/Women Business Enterprises are encouraged to apply.

3/10/2022 7165770

WEST HARTFORD PLAN AND ZONING COMMISSION NOTICE OF DECISION

The Town of West Hartford Plan and Zoning Commission also acting as the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency, at its Regular Virtual Meeting on Monday, March 7, 2022 took the following action:
INLAND WETLANDS PERMITS APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS:
300 Bloomfield Avenue – New England Jewish Academy – Application (IWW #1169) of Michael Cegan, Richter & Cegan, Inc, on behalf of New England Jewish Academy, (R.O), requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Permit to conduct certain regulated activities which may have an adverse impact on a wetlands regulated area. The applicant purposes the construcarea. The applicant purposes the construc-tion of a new addition, a new outdoor play area and associated site work in support of expanded educational programs from Pre-K through 12th grade. The proposed work is partially within a 150 ft. upland review area and no direct wetland impacts are proposed. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on February 7, 2022. Determined to be potentially significant and set for public hearing on March 7, 2022. Permit approved with conditions on March 7, 2022.)

25 Kane Street - Application (IWW #1170) of David Shipe, Starbucks Coffee Company on behalf of Thomas R. Evans, (R.O.), requesting approval of an Inland Wetlands regulated activities, which may have an ad verse impact on a wetlands regulated area The applicant purposes the reconfiguration and reconstruction of an existing commercia parking lot, building accessibility/ improvements, the relocation of an existing improvements, ne relocation of an existing trash enclosure relocation and landscaping improvements. The proposed work is within a 150 ft. upland review area and no direct wetland impacts are proposed. (Submitted for IWWA receipt on February 7, 2022. Determined to be potentially significant and set for public hearing on March 7, 2022. Permit approved with conditions on March

CONDITIONS

USE PERMIT GRANTED WITH

CONDITIONS:
25 Dover Road – St. Thomas the Apostle
School – Application (SUP #1019-R1-22)
of St. Thomas the Apostle School (R.O.) requesting approval of a Special Use Permit for
the installation of two shade structures on the installation of two shade structures or existing playground equipment. (Submitted for TPZ receipt on February 7, 2022. Required public hearing scheduled for March 7, 2022. Permit granted on March 7, 2022.) 245 Prospect Avenue – Planet Fitness – Application (SUP #1375) of Kari L. Olson, Esq, Murtha Cullina, LLP on behalf of Planet Fitness and Prospect Plaza Improvements, LLC (R.O.), requesting approval of a Special Use Permit to allow for 24-hour operations of the fitness facility pursuant to Section 177-37.1 of the zoning ordinances. (Submitted for TPZ receipt on February 7, 2022. Required public hearing scheduled for March 7, 2022. Permit granted on March 7, 2022.) 300 Bloomfield Avenue – New England Jewish Academy – Application (SUP #1150-R1-22) of Michael Cegan, Richter & Cegan, Inc, on behalf of New England Jewish Academy, (R.O.), requesting approval of a Special Use Permit for the construction of a new addition, a new outdoor play area and associated site work in support of expanded educational programs from Pre-K through 12th grade. (Submitted for TPZ receipt on February 7, 2022. Required public hearing scheduled for March 7, 2022.) The final approved plans related to the above applications are available for public review by sending an email request to comment.tpz@westhartfordct.gov or calling 860.561.7555 to schedule an appointment.

The effective date of these actions is Friday, March 25, 2022.

Kevin Ahern, Chairman TPZ/IWWA Todd Dumais, TPZ/IWW Administrative Officer Dated this the 8th day of March, 2022.

3/10/2022 7165541 Esg. Murtha Cullina, LLP on behalf of Plane Fitness and Prospect Plaza Improvements

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*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Marlborough

Bloomfield Marcia J. Watson Jervis S. Zimmerman **Bristol** Joseph Hudson, Sr.

John F. Porrini Coventry Gary L. Kiser **East Hampton** Elizabeth A. Kauset

East Hartford Robert G. Carson John C. Fissel Roberta H. Mchugo Ellington

Roberta H. Mchugo **Enfield** Edward J. Krawiec Farmington Benjamin C. Ryder

Glastonbury Jervis S. Zimmerman

Benjamin C. Ryder Hartford Byron Lloyd, Sr. Eva F. Pelczar Gary P Podrebartz

John F. Porrini Manchester Jackie Diana

Elizabeth A. Kauset Middletown Rosemary Gavin Alan E. Schneider New Britain Joseph Hudson, Sr. Newington Eva F. Pelczar Other Towns in CT Sandor Becz Charles A. Bonadies Robert G. Carson Paul J. Connelly Gary Kiser Susan E. Rutty **Out of State** Christine Lyndes Rocky Hill Michael A. Greco

Erica A. Johnson **Tolland** Sandor Becz **West Hartford** Jean Almada

Beverly Greenberg Windsor John C. Fissel Erica A. Johnson Windsor Locks Christine Lyndes **OUT OF STATE**

Gary P Podrebartz

Supply, NC

* Denotes name listing only. Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Lyndes, Christine (LeMay)



Christine (LeMay) Lyndes entered into eternal rest on February 23, 2022 at the age of 58. Born on June 6, 1963 to the late Alfred and Geraldine LeMay, Christine spent most of her youth in Windsor Locks. Christine had lived in Orlando for most of her life where she developed a love for landscaping and made it her business. Christine en-

her business. Christine enjoyed spending time with her dogs and cats and absolutely loved horses. The most precious to Christine was her grandson, Dominic. She was happiest spending time with him. Besides Dominic, Christine is survived by her husband, Irv, her son, Joey and her sister, Patti-Ann LeMay as well as nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she is predeceased by her sisters June Cowan and Sandra Gilbert. Family will be gathering together to celebrate Christine's life.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

McHugo, Roberta H.(Corey)



Roberta Helen (Corey) McHugo, 83, of Ellington, passed away peacefully on March 5, 2022 after a lengthy battle with her health issues. Roberta was born on August 26, 1938 to Raymond and Mertie Corey in St. Johnsbury, VT. One of five children, her parents in 1948 uprooted the family with a move to 139 Forbes Street to

It was her attendance at East Hartford legacy. It was her attendance at East Hartford High school where she also began her longstanding lifetime association with her dear friends Joyce and Patty. A 1956 graduate and deemed in her yearbook as one who had the mildness of manners and gentlenged about the mildness of mildness of mildness and mildness of mildness and mildness and mil the mildness of manners and gentleness' she moved on to pursue her studies in business.

A few years later on a blind date, she met William McHugo who she married in September 1960, and proceeded to have two children William Corey and Scott Andrew. She and her family resided in a small cape on Ridgewood Road in East Hartford until moving a few miles up the road to Skyline Drive in 1968. It was here at '96' that our house became the social neighborhood hotspot for the local kids and adults. Parent approved athletic backyard contests, fund raising carnivals, camp outs and excursions into our coveted woods that bordered our property were all standard fare. A priceless innocence and karma with the blessed touch of two special parents existed here that no outsider could

ever quantify or explain. Once her children became semi-independent, Roberta took various classes to acquire her Library Sciences degree, which led her to an affiliation with the East Hartford town library system. Various front desk positions at Penney High School, East Hartford High School, Raymond, and Wickham libraries allowed her to share knowledge and provide an opportunity to enhance many lives. "Knowledge is power" was one of her many

mantras. After this experience she moved onto the Aetna Self- paced education center in Hartford where she facilitated the coordination of administration programs for the betterment of the company's associates. She was also manager of the Aetna Outreach programs and spear headed an educational program entitled 'Saturday Academy' that gave local middle school students the opportunity to partake in educational workshops, group discussions, games and field trips.

After her retirement she turned attention to the beloved grandchildren (Sean, Emily, Elizabeth, Jocelyn, Bridget and Madeline) at her special warm and loving Ellington residency. Special 'grandma' sentiments touched all of their lives with story reading, special baking projects, holiday decoration events---all part of an effort to make important loving and special connections.

Roberta is predeceased by her parents Raymond and Mertie Corey, her husband William Joseph McHugo as well as her sister Marilyn Lanier and twin brother Robert Corey. She is survived by her two siblings, Ronald Corey in New Hampshire and Philip Corey of Bristol. Her immediate legacy will be carried on by her sons William Corey McHugo who is married to her special daughter-in law Joanne of Coventry, and Scott McHugo of Menlo Park, CA.

Funeral service celebrating Roberta's life will be Saturday (March 12, 2022) at 10:30 am at the D'Esopo East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Burial will follow at Hillside Cemetery, (Section D), East Hartford. Roberta's family will receive relatives and friends on Saturday morning from 9 am to 10:30 am at the funeral home chapel. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Roberta's name may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 200 Executive Blvd., Suite 4B, Southington, CT 06489 or to Protectors of Animals, 144 Main Street, Unit O, East Hartford, CT 06118. The McHugo family would like to express sincere thanks and appreciation to the Wethersfield 'Right at Home' agency, VITAS Healthcare and especially to Brookdale Buckingham in Glastonbury led by Jill, Doreen and their ever-caring staff who helped us through Roberta's journey over the past few years. For on-line expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopoeh.com.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

OBITUARIES

Hudson, Deacon Joseph, Sr.



Deacon Joseph Hudson, Sr. 103, of Bristol, died on March Deacon Hudson's Homegoing Celebration will take place on Saturday (March 12, 2022) at 10 AM at South Congregational-First Baptist Church, 90 Main St., New Britain. Burial, with military honors, will follow in

West Cemetery, Bristol. The family will visit with relatives and friends on Saturday at the church between 9 and 10 AM (Masks required). For full obituary and to view the funeral livestreamed via Zoom visit Joseph's memorial web-site at www.FunkFuneralHome.com.

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Kiser, Gary



Gary Lee Kiser, 79, of Mulberry, FL and a snowbird of Coventry, beloved husband of 55 years to Eva I. (Friesen) Kiser, passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022. Born in Sharon, PA, the son of the late Albert and Della (Cowan) Kiser, he grew up in West Middlesex, PA. He was a Cum Laude graduate of Youngstown State University in Youngstown, OH, Class of 1966 where he earned his de-

gree in chemical engineering. Gary is a proud veteran who served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as Battalion Operations Officer for a Hawk Missile Battery in Ansbach, Germany (1967-1969). He worked nearly 38 years for the E.I. DuPont Chemical Company serving in Cleveland, OH, Toledo, OH, LaPorte, TX, and Wilmington, DE where he held several patents. He also worked for Invista, a division of Koch Industries, for 3 years where he held a patent for a process supporting the Lycra business.

Gary loved the Lord and served as a deacon in the Christian & Mission Alliance Church in Hockessin, DE and as assistant treasurer in the Reformed Church of America in Cleveland, OH. His great respect for international missionaries led him and Eva to support several over his lifetime. Additionally, they served in a short-term mission trip to Kenya.

He enjoyed scientific endeavors and economics. His hobbies were reading, photography, aviation, astronomy, investing, playing games with family and building and flying his RV12 airplane and taking local flights with his family and flying with Eva to destinations from Maine to Texas.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Julie Mooney of OH, Sandra West and her husband Jim of MA, and Kurtis Lee Kiser and his wife Regina of Bolton, CT; eight grandchildren, Megan, Madelyn and Jordyn Mooney, Luke, Andrew and Elizabeth West, and Abigail and Grace Kiser; his sister, Kay Cox of OH, and extended family and friends. He was predeceased by extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his brother Keith Kiser. His family will receive friends for calling hours on Friday, March 11, 2022 from 5 – 7 PM at the Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Road (Route 83), Vernon. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 12th at 5 PM at the New River Church, 314 Woodbridge Street, Manchester. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Great Commission Fund of his church New River Community Church Manchester. CT church, New River Community Church, Manchester, CT. For online condolences and guest book, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com



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Watson, Marcia Jensen



Marcia Jensen Watson, 74, of Bloomfield, passed away peacefully in the company of her husband of 49 years, Bill, and family, on Sunday, March 6, 2022. Marcia was born in Hartford and raised in Bloomfield, CT, the daughter to the late Howard and Osa Jensen. She was predeceased by her brother, Buddy, and is survived by her sister, Nancy

Alford and brother-in-law Skip. In addition to her husband, Marcia leaves her son, Adam Watson, his wife Lori Ungemah, and their children, Alexandra and Nico of Brooklyn, NY. She also leaves her daughter, Jennifer Mackowski, her husband Chris, and their children, Tyler and Alyssa of Granby, CT. Also fondly remembered will be her nephews and niece, and many treasured friends.

Marcia graduated from Bloomfield High School in 1965, earned her Bachelor's Degree from Skidmore College in 1969 and Master's Degree in the Education of Deaf-Blind from Boston College in 1970. She first met Bill working at Camp Harkness in Waterford, CT in the mid-60s where they reconnected in 1971 and married the following summer. Marcia began her career as a teacher at the Connecticut Institute for the Blind (Oak Hill School) where she was recognized for her dedication to her deaf-blind students. She took a hiatus of several years to raise her children, returning to Oak Hill as a supervisor of group homes. She completed her career as Oak Hill's Director of Blindness-Related Services on the main campus in Hartford. Marcia was an active member and officer of the Hartford Host Lions Club for many years and, in her retirement, was active in the West Hartford Art League. She had many artistic talents: stenciling, calligraphy, silk screening, collage, knitting, needle point, interior and garden design. She particularly enjoyed reading, antiquing, and collecting nesting dolls and Danish porcelain

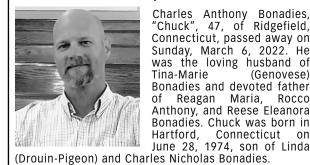
Marcia was a committed and caring wife and mom. Above all, her greatest joys were her grandkids. She took such pride in their accomplishments. We hope she knows how much her influence has benefited all of us. After residing for nearly 40 years in West Hartford on Mountain Road, the neighborhood of many lifelong friends, she and Bill returned to her family home in Bloomfield. She loved this home and its landscape, delighting in the frequent sightings of birds and wildlife.

Remember Marcia's smile, her wit and caring nature, and how much she cherished visits from loved ones Honor her by reaching out to a friend, being kind, and finding forgiveness. A time of visitation for family and friends to gather will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, from 4-7 p.m. at the Carmon Windsor Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. The family will host a celebration of her life in their yard on Kenmore Road this summer. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to one of Marcia's favorite organizations. Camp https://summercamp.oakhillct.org/ via about-camp-harkness/, The Hartford Artisans Weaving Center via https://www.weavingcenter.org/donate or the Bloomfield Public Library via https://bplct.org/about-the-library/support-the-library/. To leave an online message of condolence for her family, please



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Bonadies, Charles A.



Charles Anthony Bonadies, "Chuck", 47, of Ridgefield, Connecticut, passed away on Sunday, March 6, 2022. He was the loving husband of Tina-Marie (Genovese) Bonadies and devoted father of Reagan Maria, Rocco Anthony, and Reese Eleanora Bonadies. Chuck was born in Hartford, Connecticut on

Chuck grew up in Windsor Locks, Connecticut playing basketball, baseball, and football. He graduated from Easten Connecticut State University where he founded the chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy and Government in 1997, his Master of Divinity degree in 2004, and his Master of Theology degree in 2009. Before relocating to Ridgefield, Connecticut, Chuck pastored Suber Road Baptist Church in Greer, South Carolina for 16 years.

Chuck joined Ridgefield Baptist Church as Senior Pastor in 2014. Over the last 7 years he has been influential in the Ridgefield community and surrounding through various town events and non-profits, notably The Ridgefield Clergy Association, The Danbury Hospital Ethics Committee, and Jericho Partnership. Chuck was active in his children's athletic endeavors, sometimes coaching and often seen and heard on the sidelines cheering on the teams. He was a board member and coach with the Ridgefield Girls Softball League. In his

coach with the Ridgefield Girls Softball League. In his spare time, he also enjoyed hunting, fishing, cooking, and spending time in the gym. He was an avid reader, a collector of records, and a die-hard Yankees fan. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Tina-Marie, and their three children: Reagan Maria, Rocco Anthony, and Reese Eleanora. In addition, Chuck is survived by his mother, Linda Drouin-Pigeon; his siblings, Nicholas Bonadies (Becky), Kimberly Nunez-Boynton (Allen), Deborah Pigeon-Hooper (Charles), and Steven Pigeon (Michelle), as well as his many nieces, nephews, colleagues, friends, and church members. He was predeceased by his father, Charles Nicholas Bonadies and his cousin, Nicolé Marie Lucia Bonadies.
Family and friends will be received on Sunday, March 13, 2022, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Kane Funeral Home; 25 Catoonah Street, Ridgefield. A Funeral Service

Home; 25 Catoonah Street, Ridgefield. A Funeral Service will take place on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 12:00 PM at Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church Church; 207 Main Street, Ridgefield. Interment will follow in Mapleshade Cemetery, Ridgefield. Contributions in Church's memory may be made to Ridgefield. in Chuck's memory may be made to Ridgefield Baptist Church - 325 Danbury Road; Ridgefield, CT 06877, http://www.ridgefieldbaptist.org/web/give/

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Gavin, Rosemary (Johnson)



Rosemary Ann (Johnson) Gavin of Westfield, MA passed away on March 3, 2022. Rosemary was born in Glendale, CA on September 22, 1933 to Rose C. (Geehern) and Daniel F. Johnson. Rosemary was a kind, caring, and lovely presence for all who knew her. She graduated from Westfield High School in 1951 and began a career with

New England Telephone and Telegraph Company as a switch board operator. She went on to hold different positions with the company and retired from the Phone Store. Rosemary was married to Tom for 64 years and was very dedicated to her family. Rosemary enjoyed the house or porch filled with company and that she had "on Broadway". She loved to bake, discover new recipes, and visit the coast of Maine. She was an avid walker and reader. She was one of Noble Hospital's longest serving volunteers and a member of St. Mary's Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. She was predeceased by her husband Tom in 2021. Rosemary is survived by her four children: Daniel and his wife Crystal Faith and her husband Chuck, Jerome and his wife Donna, and Maureen. She also leaves cherished grandchildren Ben, Sean, Tim, and Shannon, plus great grandson Colt. Thanks to the staff at Heritage Hall West for the loving care and support given to Rosemary. Calling hours will be on Saturday, March 19th, from 9:00am-10:30am at Firtion-Adams Funeral Home, 76 Broad Street, Westfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11:00am at St. Mary's Church, Bartlett Street, Westfield. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Rosemary may be made to St. Mary's Church, 35 Bartlett Street, Westfield, MA 01085. www.firtionadams.com

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Ryder, Benjamin C.



Benjamin C. Ryder, 79, of Farmington, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2022, at UConn John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington. He was the beloved husband of Debra Collins Ryder. Ben was born on October 19, 1942, in Hartford; the son of the late A. Chandler Ryder and Jeanette (Funk) Ryder and was raised in Granby, CT. Following gradua-tion from Kingswood School in



West Hartford in 1961, he enlisted in the United States Air Force until 1966. After leaving the Air Force he attended and later graduated from the University of New Hampshire with an Economics Degree in 1969. He met

his first wife Frances Provencher in college and they had one daughter, Tiffany Ryder of California. After his divorce he met and later married Debra Collins, a former dancer with the Hartford Ballet and they have one son, Christian Ryder of Farmington.

Ben's career started with Connecticut Mutual Insurance as an Insurance Agent and Agency Finance Officer and later Merrill Lynch as an Estate Planner until his retirement in 2005. He organized Connecticut Mutual's Run for Life, on the Board of Directors of the Hartford Ballet, Freemason at Evening Star Lodge in Unionville, Knights Templar, American Legion, Cub Scout leader and "rec" soccer coach. Ben enjoyed fly fishing and distance running (completing the Ocean State Marathon, Newport,

In addition to his wife, daughter and son Ben is survived by his granddaughter Kendra Poehler of CA; sister Linda Ryder-Munet of East Haddam; brother and sister-in-law Watson and Beth Collins of West Hartford; nephew W. Reid Collins of West Hartford and numerous Funk and Ryder cousins.

The visiting hours will be Monday morning, March 14, 2022 from 10 to 11:30 AM at Funk Funeral Home, 35 Bellevue Avenue, Bristol, which has the honor of serving the family. A Masonic Service will take place at 11:30 AM in the funeral home. Interment with full Military Honors will follow in Granby Cemetery, 284 N Granby Rd, Granby, CT. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any contributions be made to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Connecticut https://ctbigs.org/memorialdonation/. To leave an online condolence go to Ben's memorial page at www.FunkFuneralHome.com



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OBITUARIES

Connelly, Paul J.



Paul James Connelly died peacefully at home on March 7, 2022, in Westbrook, CT at the age of 78, with family by his side. Paul is survived by his wife and best friend, Susan (Festa); his son James Connelly and his Michele; his daughter Aimee Ledas and her husband Darius and his cherished grandchil-

dren. Calling hours will be held at Robinson, Wright & Weymer Funeral Home, 34 Main St. Centerbrook, Thursday March 10th from 4pm-7pm. Funeral Mass will be held on Friday March 11th, at Saint Mark Catholic Church, 222 McVeagh Road, Westbrook. Interment to follow at Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Westbrook Chemical Engine Company #1 or St. Jude's Children's Hospital. The family would like to thank Middlesex Health Palliative and Hospice Care for their care and support.

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Diana, Jackie



Jackie Diana, 85, Manchester, passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022, after a 10-year bout with Alzheimer's with her family by her side. Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 9:30-11AM, followed by a funeral home service at 11AM. The Rite of Burial and Committal will be in East Cemetery, Manchester. For a

complete obituary and more details, please visit www. tierneyfuneralhome.com. For livestream, please visit www.facebook.com/TierneyFuneralHome.

Vierney

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Fissel, John C.

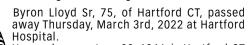


John C. Fissel, 62, of East Hartford, CT formerly Windsor, CT passed away on Saturday, March 5, 2022. He was born on July 25, 1959 to Daniel and Myrtle (Davidson) Fissel. John is survived by his wife Judy (Wolfersdorf), His children with the "Late" Maura Fissel, his daughters, Michaela and her sons Dillan, Alvin, and Caleb, Katherine

and her husband Nicholas Hogan and their son Myles, his sons Robert and Daniel, his brother James and his wife Bernadette and their daughters, Leah and her husband Mark Treacy and their children Deanna and Mark, Amy and her daughter Naila, and Catherine and her husband Matthew Rucci; Also a cousin Nancy Mills. Services will be private at the convenience of the family. Memorial Donations in John's memory can be made to Wickham Park, 1329 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040. For online condolences please visit www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

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Lloyd, Sr., Byron



He was born on June 22, 1946, in Hartford, CT

Byron graduated from Hartford Public High School in 1965 and was drafted into the United States Army. He was a lifelong resident of Hartford and a proud Vietnam Veteran.

Byron was predeceased by his parents Daniel Lloyd and Olivia Jones Long, and his step-father Matthew Long. He leaves to mourn his passing, his children, Byron Lloyd Jr. (Jennifer), Rita Black(Craig), Jason Lloyd, Jessica Lloyd, Melissa Morales, Resha Mitchell, Andre Thompson and his grandchildren.

Byron also leaves behind a brother Reuben Lloyd (Lenda), a sister Deborah Stanley (Elton) and a host of cousins, nephews and nieces.

Visitation will be held Saturday, March 12, 2022, from 10:00 AM-11:00 AM with services to follow at 11:00 AM at All Faith Memorial Chapel, 90 John Fitch Blvd, South Windsor, CT. 06074.

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Podrebartz, Gary P



Gary Peter Podrebartz, 76, of Supply, NC formerly of East Hartford, CT, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2022 at his home with his loving family by his side.

Born in Hartford, CT on February 16, 1946, Gary was a son of the late George and Barbara (Evanusich) Podrebartz. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Raymond Podrebartz.

Gary was a US Army veteran and served in Vietnam. He worked for Pratt & Whitney Aerospace Company, E. Hartford, CT for many years. In retirement, he loved being on his riding lawn mower and cutting everyone's grass. Gary and his wife moved to Daytona Beach, Fl and were avid motorcycle riders and loved traveling throughout Florida.

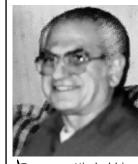
Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Betty (Berritta) Podrebartz of Supply; a daughter, Stacy Berritta; a grandson, Francis and wife Jessica Podrebartz; four great-grandchildren, Jaxon, Mabry, Harlow and Kate; he also leaves a brother, Michael Podrebartz of CT.
To honor his wishes, his services will be held privately.

Online condolences are encouraged and may be sent to the family at www.fulwoodfuneralservice.com

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Becz, Sandor

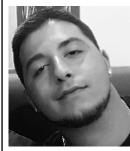


Sandor "Alex" Becz, Sr., 84, of Tolland, beloved husband of Rose (Mako) Becz, passed away Tuesday, March 8, 2022. He was born October 10, 1937, in Hungary, the son of the late Jozef and Marika (Gere) Becz. He proudly served in the United States Army, worked as a skilled machinist for 40 years, and in his retirement became a beloved flower delivery driver.

His hobbies included fishing, coaching soccer, tinkering with every mechanical part known to man, gardening, and spending quality time with his family. Besides his loving wife, Rose (and her siblings Mary Szabo and James Mako) he is survived by his children, Sandor Becz Jr. and his wife Michelle Becz, and Marika Becz and her husband Joseph Dunham, as well as three grandsons, Connor Becz, Spencer Becz, and Jack Dunham, and many adored nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his parents and his two brothers, Jozef and Imre. Relatives and friends are welcome to join the family from 4 - 6pm on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at the Tolland Memorial Funeral Home, 375 Merrow Rd. (Rte. 195) Tolland, CT. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. For online condolences please visit www.pietrasfuneralhome.com

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Greco, Michael A.



Michael A. Greco, 24, of Rocky Hill, passed away on March, 7, 2022. Born in Hartford on June 28,1997 to Robert and Lee-Ann (Vosney) Greco. Mike was in the Vinal Tech graduating class of 2015. His passion was in his family's transportation business, Central Garage. Mike loved adventure, he lived life to the fullest, everything he

did was "full throttle." Beside his parents he leaves behind his sister Leslie Guarino and husband Joseph, three brothers Robert "Bobby" Greco, Jordan Greco and Anthony Greco; his grandmother Jennie Vosney and grandfather Angelo Greco and his beloved niece Lennon and nephew Joseph. Michael is also survived by his aunts and uncles Richard and Michael Vosney, Anthony Unc Greco, Michael and Wendy Greco, Michael Kelly, Patricia Orsini and Marilyn Greco; cousins, Sebastian, Kailyn and Justin Vosney as well as many other beloved cousins and countless friends. Michael was predeceased by his aunt Cheryl Vosney and uncle Timothy Kelly. Michael was larger than life, he was the heartbeat of our family, he touched countless lives and gave everyone he came across a small piece of his heart. A Máss of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2022 at 11am directly in Holy Trinity Church, 53 Capitol Ave. Hartford. Interment will follow in Rose Hill Cemetery, Rocky Hill. Family and friends are invited to the Giulano-Sagarino Funeral Home at BROOKLAWN 511 Brook St. Rocky Hill, on Friday, March 11th from 4-8p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Michael's name to Youth Drug Awareness and Prevention Inc. www.natural high.org/donate or www. drugfree.org/treatment. For online guestboook please visit www.brooklawnfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Johnson, Erica AnneGergler



Erica Anne (Gergler) Johnson, 65, formerly of Rocky Hill and Windsor, CT departed Friday, March 4, 2022. Erica was born in Hartford, CT on March 13, 1956, daughter of the late Floyd W. and Barbara J. (Plude) Gergler. Erica comes from a large family and her passing will truly leave a permanent ache in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. Erica

leaves to cherish her memory her son, Jason R. Gergler and his wife Amy; her daughter, Kristen Valiquette and fiancé, Robert Miceli, three grandsons, Jason R. Gergler Jr., Grayson Gergler, and Griffin Gergler; three grand-daughters, Amanda Gergler, Stephanie Candage, and Natalie Candage; two brothers, Jay Gergler and his wife Linda, and Floyd G. Gergler; four sisters, Patricia Sebastian, Kathryn Allen and her husband David, Caroline Kinville and her husband Ralph, and Frances Meissner, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives and friends. Erica was preceded in death by her grandson Tyler Michael Gergler and her beloved partner of many years, Douglas Tait. Funeral services will be held 5pm on Saturday, March 12, 2022, at the Carmon Funeral Home, 807 Bloomfield Ave., Windsor. The family will receive friends prior from 3pm-5pm. For the complete obituary and online condolences please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com In lieu of flowers, please donate to St. Jude's Hospital for Children in Erica's name and honor, as this was a place near and dear to her heart.



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Kauset, Elizabeth A.



Elizabeth A. "Liz" (Mele) Kauset, 73, of East Hampton passed away unexpectedly on Friday March 4, 2022. Born on October 13, 1948 in Torrington, she graduated from Torrington High School in 1966 and worked for the past 20 years as an Executive Administrative Benefits Lorensen Manager

Enterprises, Inc. She shared a passion for the outdoors, particularly gardening, with her late husband Richard V. Kauset and beloved dog Bob. Liz was very witty, never afraid to speak her mind and had an amazing sense of humor. She enjoyed quality time with her family, celebrating holidays and shared the sense of humor. ing a laugh over a glass of wine. She was extremely creative, had an eye for decorating and a great sense of style.

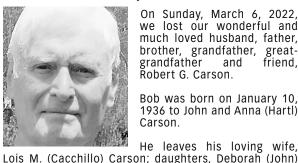
Liz was the daughter of the late Anthony J. Mele and Katherine (Shimo) Mele of Torrington. She is survived by her daughter Danielle McGee and husband Patrick of West Granby, daughter Michelle Abrahamson and husband Chuck of Glastonbury, and was a loving grandmother to her five grandchildren, Caitlyn, Quincy, Maddee, Austin and Chase. She will be missed by her family, friends and especially her cat "Weebie".

Funeral service and calling hours will be held on

Tuesday March 15th from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main Street in East Hampton, CT. If you so choose, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Protectors of Animals or a charity of your choice in her memory. To leave online condolences please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.

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Carson, Robert G.



On Sunday, March 6, 2022, we lost our wonderful and much loved husband, father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, Robert G. Carson.

Bob was born on January 10, 1936 to John and Anna (Hartl) Carson.

He leaves his loving wife,

Apolczer and Robin Carson, his son, Robert Carson Jr. brother, Jack Carson and his daughter Lisa; grandchildren, Candace, John and Kenzy; great-grandchildren, Kenny, Hailey, Elizabeth, Sophia and Roman. He also leaves Lois' sons, George, Gary and Glen Bessoni. He was predeceased by his parents and daughter, Joanne.

Bob was an extremely hardworking man who enjoyed his many years at Della Construction of Enfield, fol-lowed by short stints at Costello Industries, Southeast Paving, Avis, Southern Auto and lastly a very nice time at Kasheta Power Equipment.

His interests included antique cars, small engine repair, tag sales, making German and Italian sausage and pickles, working at the bingo and feasts at Mt. Carmel, trips to many Caribbean islands and Italy, also his Wednesday nights playing setback.

Our Bob was a very busy bee, belonging to the Model A Club of CT, Mt. Carmel Society of Enfield, E. Windsor Society for Detecting Thieves and Robbers, the German Club and his union, IUOE, Local 478.

We sincerely thank those who helped so faithfully in his care, especially Glenn and Cheryl Clark and family, Hospice nurse Pam and Aide Andrea.

At his request, cremation was chosen. Services are to be held on Saturday, March 12th at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM with a memorial service following at 1:00 PM at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Gardner St., F. Windows CT. Buriel will be held privately at a later. E. Windsor, CT. Burial will be held privately at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please contribute to your favorite cause. For online condolences please visit: www. pietrasfuneralhome.com

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Pelczar, Eva F.

Eva Frances (Scherban) Pelczar, 100, formerly of Hartford, beloved wife for 40 years of the late Stanley Pelczar, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 7, 2022. Born in Hartford on July 7, 1921, she was the daughter of the late Alexander and Frances (Urhan) daughter of the late Alexander and Frances (Urhan) Scherban. Eva grew up in Hartford and was a 1939 graduate of Bulkeley High School. She worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft in Plant Engineering for many years until her retirement. In her spare time, she enjoyed volunteering at Ellis Manor in Hartford and was active in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Polish Army Veterans of America Association, P.A.V.A. Post #51 in Hartford. A dovout Catholic she was a parishioper of SS. Cyril & devout Catholic, she was a parishioner of SS. Cyril & Methodius Church in Hartford, where she belonged to the Golden Senior Fellowship, the Ladies Guild and served as a volunteer for Bingo and on other committees.

Eva leaves two sons, John and Pauline Pelczar of Rocky Hill and Richard and Kim Pelczar of Newington; five grandchildren, Dr. Elizabeth Pelczar of NJ, Dr. Patricia Rossi and husband Robert of Glastonbury, Peter Pelczar and wife Julie of North Branford, Corrie Schram and husband Rick of Andover and Jeffrey Pelczar and wife Katie of WA and nine great-grandchildren, Carson, Adriano, Robert, Dante, Anna, James, Kendall, Allison and Gavin. Besides her husband, she was predeceased by four brothers and one sister. Our family would like to express our gratitude to the staff of Maple View Manor in Rocky Hill for the care and compassion shown to Eva in her final days.

Family and friends may call on Monday, March 14 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated following the visitation at 10 a.m. at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 63 Popieluszko Court, Hartford. Burial will be in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Donations in Eva's memory may be made to St. Paul School, 461 Alling St., Berlin, CT 06037, Southington Catholic School, 133 Bristol St., Southington, CT 06489, Corpus Christi School, 581 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT 06109 or the Neurofibromatosis Northeast Regional Chapter, 9 Bedford Street, Burlington, MA 01803. To share a memory of Eva with her family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.



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Rutty, Susan Elizabeth



Susan Elizabeth (Edmondson) Rutty, 77, of Haddam, beloved wife of Wayne M. Rutty, passed away on Tuesday March 8, 2022 at Hartford Hospital. She was born in Manchester, daughter of Rev. James V. and Katherine Laura (Hill) Edmondson. Susan was an office manager for the Connecticut Rivers Council,

years before retiring in 2007.
Susan retired early to enjoy making memories with her grandchildren and to pursue her interests in her community. She was always involved in her two son's activities starting her involvement with the Boy Scouts as a Den leader for her sons. She was an active member of the Haddam Club 60, Committee on Aging in Haddam, Haddam Neck Fair where she was a director and treasurer for many years. Susan was instrumental to the revitalizations of the local Red Hatters Society and the Haddam Garden Club. Susan and Wayne enjoyed the many years traveling the country in their Airstream Trailer with friends to WBCCI Airstream Club activities. In 2020 Susan was honored to have been inducted into the Haddam-Killingworth Hall of Fame for her years of outstanding service to her community. Susan is survived by her husband of 58 years Wayne;

sons, David and his wife Kimberly of Wethersfield, Michael and his wife Lianne of Chester; four grand-children, Justin, Katelyn and her fiancé Jordan Zima, James, and Samuel; brother, John Edmondson and his wife Bari of Haddam; sister Kathy Sandhara and his wife Bari of Haddam; sister Kathy Sandhara and his wife Bari of Haddam; sister, Kathy Sandberg and her husband Steve of Coventry; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2022 at 3 p.m. at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St. Middletown. Calling hours will be held prior to the service from 12 to 3 p.m.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to the Haddam Emergency Fuel Bank c/o: Haddam Social Services; 11 Jail Hill Rd; Haddam, CT 06438 or CT Humane Society; 701 Russel Rd; Newington, CT 06111. To share memories or express condolences online please visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

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OBITUARIES

Greenberg, Beverly (Parks)



Beverly P. Greenberg passed away on March 7, 2022 at home in West Hartford, Connecticut, surrounded by her family. She was 81.

Born Beverly Lynn Parks on April 18, 1940 in Hartford, Connecticut, she was the daughter of Marion (Kamins) Parks and William Parks.

Beverly was a member of the inaugural, graduating class at Hall High School in West

She was a proud alumna of Mount Holyoke College, from which she earned her bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, in 1962. Her receipt of a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1963, was the beginning of a long and continuous commitment to education and community service.

As a teacher in the Glastonbury Public Schools, she relished the opportunity to nurture curiosity in her students and develop young readers, writers and critical thinkers. With a passion for education policy, she sought to eliminate the inequities in access to education. First elected to the West Hartford Board of Education in 1981, she served for eight years, three as chairperson. She was appointed to the Connecticut State Board of Education in 1989 where she served for 12 years, two as vice chair.

Beverly was an avid fan and supporter of the arts. Theater, music, dance, design, fine art, crafts...she enjoyed them all and appreciated all of the creators behind the finished works.

A life board member of Hartford Stage, she was involved for over forty years as a champion, fundraiser and audience member who appreciated every aspect of bringing a production to the stage. As a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum, she helped others interpret and appreciate the museum's collection. Beverly was also a member of the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum Advisory Board.

Beverly served two terms on the board of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving from 2005 to 2014. Other board service included the Hartford Education Foundation, the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, West Hartford Community Television and Westledge School.

In 2014, she received the Woman Philanthropist of the Year award from the Aurora Women and Girls Foundation, an honor she cherished.

Her service, philanthropy and appreciation of the arts was complemented by effervescence and boundless energy. She kayaked, weight trained, did Pilates and tap danced from a young age, continuing into her seventies.

She was energized by relationships with others and grateful for strong friendships, some lasting from childhood.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Arnold Greenberg; her daughters, Dana and Sara Greenberg; her grand-children, Joshua and Lily Shafer; and her brother and sister-in-law, David and Pamela Parks.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, March 10 at Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Avenue in West Hartford with Rabbi James Rosen officiating. Masks required. Burial will follow in Beth El Temple Cemetery at 51 Jackson Street, Avon, CT. Immediately following the burial, the family will receive relatives and friends at Beth El Temple.

Shiva will be observed at the family's home, 47 Jillian Circle, West Hartford, on Thursday, March 10; Sunday, March 13; and Monday, March 14 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm, with a minyan at 7:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hartford Stage, 50 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103 (www.hartfordstage.org); Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, 10 Columbus Boulevard, 8th Floor, Hartford CT 06106 (www.hfpg.org); Beth El Temple, 2626 Albany Avenue West Hartford, CT 06117 (www.bethelwesthartford.org); or a recipient of the donor's choosing

Arrangements are entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford, CT. For further information, directions, or to sign the guest book for Beverly, please visit online at www.weinsteinmortuary.com.

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Zimmerman, Jervis S.



The Rev. Canon Jervis S (Jerry) Zimmerman died February 27 at Seabury Retirement Community in Bloomfield, CT at the age of 99; in accordance with his wishes, his body was donated the University Connecticut Medical School.

Ordained to the Episcopal priesthood in 1953. Jerry served as rector of Christ

served as rector of Christ Church, West Haven (now Church of the Holy Spirit) for 13 years. He was on the staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut from 1967 to 1983, first as director of Episcopal Social Services, Bridgeport, and later with diocesan responsibility for clergy deployment, in Hartford. Following his retirement in 1983, he served an additional 24 years as a supply priest in the diocese. His knowledge of the history and staffing of the diocese's 160 parishes was encyclopedic. encyclopedic.

encyclopedic.
Prior to ordination to the Episcopal priesthood,
Jerry ministered eight years in the Presbyterian Church
in Illinois. In 1949, he came to Connecticut to be the
chaplain at Norwich State Hospital. Born August 29,
1922, to Jacob and Ethel Zimmerman of Harvey, Illinois,
he was the second of their two sons. He earned degrees
from the University of Illinois, McCormick Theological
Seminary, and the University of Chicago.
He married Eleanore (Hubbell) Zimmerman, who
died in 2003, in 1951. Their children, Sarah (Sally), John
and Paul survive him, along with their families, Sally's
husband Allen Olsen, John's wife Marlys Jarstfer, and
Paul's partner, Betty Plumley. He is survived by a grandson, Andrew Olsen, and Andrew's partner Amy Wipfler.

son, Andrew Olsen, and Andrew's partner Amy Wipfler.

His grandson Christopher Olsen predeceased him. Jerry loved singing, The New Yorker, cashews, nonpareil chocolates, pancakes, roses, a daily swim, and a good laugh. He was a devoted world traveler and he and Eleanore traveled extensively across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and the U.S. In retirement, they lived in Glastonbury and Madison, CT. In 2012, Jerry published An Embattled Priest: The Life of Eather Oliver published An Embattled Priest: The Life of Father Oliver Sherman Prescott, a 19th century Episcopal priest noted for having been tried four times as a heretic between 1850-1852 and the one-time rector of Jerry's

A Eucharist in celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Jervis Zimmerman will take place at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford at 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 12. In keeping with Cathedral COVID protocols no food or refreshments will be served. Participants should be feeling healthy and be fever-free. Facemasks or cloth coverings must be worn always by everyone and will be available for walk-ins. Parking is available on the streets and at the MAT Garage, 55 Chapel Street South. MAT parking tickets will be validated at the Cathedral.

Gifts in Rev. Zimmerman's memory may be made to the Society for the Increase of the Ministry, at https:// simministry.org/, or The Society for the Increase of the Ministry P.O. Box 21557 New York, NY 10087-1557.

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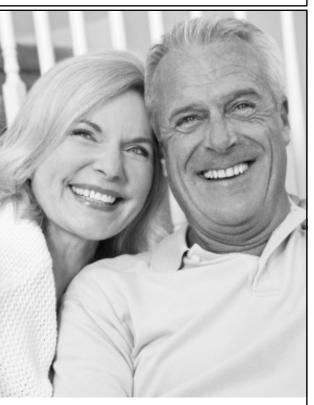
Porrini, John F.



John F. Porrini, 77, passed away with his family by his side at Bristol Hospital on Sunday, March 7, 2022. To view John's full obituary, please visit www.dupontfuneralhome.com

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hare memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.



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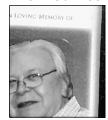
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IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of THOMAS J FAGO



03/10/1946-09/15/2015



Missing you on your birthday. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't miss you! Happy Birthday Love Nanine, Darien & Heather, Brent, Hailey, Randy & Elena, Carley, Chloe, Evan & Iveliz, Cameron, Jaxson

In Loving Memory Of MICHAEL H JACOBS



3/10/1951-4/27/2017



Dad, we look up to the stars, see one shining so brightly, and we know that you're there, watching and protecting us. We miss you today, on your birthday, and everyday. Love, Jillian and Aly.

In Loving Memory Of MARY L KUCKEL



3/10/1912 - 12/1/2007



Happy Birthday, Mom Remembering you on your special day. You will always be remembered, cherished, loved and forever in our hearts Love Shirley, Bobby, Dick and Jacquie.

In Loving Memory Of JOSEPH W MORELLI



03/10/1984-12/10/2018 Happy 38th Birthday My Precious Son!

Your guest list for your celebration in Heaven grew this past year and we are envious of the company that you now keep. Your friends still talk about you as if they just saw you the day before. Your family lives with your memory at the forefront of our minds every day. We still mourn you because we had the privilege of loving and being loved by you. These milestones are difficult to celebrate without you but we use each special day as another opportunity to keep you alive in our hearts. Stay strong, stay well and keep in contact in your own way. Till we meet again my Joey...We love you always. Mom, Dad, Chris and Caitlin, and Steven and Christie.....and your furry pals, Gus and Dexter!

In Loving Memory Of



11/20/1985 - 3/10/1994

28 long years since God called you home and left us broken hearted. We love and miss you more everyday.

So much love... So little time.

We love you always Mom & Dad

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Veiled attack on affordable housing?

Advocates think so

By Ginny Monk

CT Mirror

A bill that purports to mandate a study into one of Connecticut's foremost affordable housing policies appears to be a veiled attempt to weaken the statute, advocates and legislators said.

The bill would require that the commissioner of housing study the effects of a 1990 law commonly

known as 8-30g. That law gives affordable housing developers the ability to challenge towns in court if their housing proposals are denied, even if they don't meet local zoning regulations.

Municipalities that have at least 10% of total housing units set aside as affordable or government-assisted units are exempt.

If passed, the commissioner would need to produce a report on the law by Jan. 1, 2023.

Despite the bill's innocuous

language, public comment by supporters led some housing advocates to believe the study was intended as an attack on one of the state's affordable housing policies.

"I have serious concerns that those who support S.B. 169 intend to use it as a vehicle for the dismantling of affordable housing legislation that has been enormously effective for more than three decades," Greenwich resident Alma Rutgers said at the recent public hearing. Typically, housing is considered affordable if a person spends up to a third of their income on housing costs. Connecticut lacks nearly 87,000 units that are affordable and available for renters with extremely low incomes, according to estimates from the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

Rents and housing prices have been rising in Connecticut, particularly over the past couple of years.

Turn to Housing, Page 2

WEST HARTFORD

Leaders targeting upgrades

Town, school officials call for 3% spending increase in budget

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

West Hartford's town and school leaders want a combined 3% spending increase for next year's budget, with additional money directed to long-term improvements such as the New Park Avenue "complete streets" project, more powerful school ventilation systems and new police training equipment.

If the town council approves the plan this spring, the tax rate would decrease by 2.6 mills, or roughly 6 percent. Property taxes won't be going down, however, because West Hartford just completed a property revaluation that pushed assessments up by an average of 12%.

Acting Town Manager Rick Ledwith presented his plan to the town council Tuesday night

Turn to Budget, Page 2

Judge says rejection of petition was 'wrong'

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

BLOOMFIELD — A judge ruled Tuesday that Bloomfield's Democratic registrar of voters rejected petitions for a primary out of "pure speculation."

Superior Court Judge
Matthew Joseph Budzik on Tuesday ordered that a primary for the
Democratic Town Committee be
held on March 22. Budzik found
at a recent trial that registrar Troy
Mitchell's assessment of fraud on
nominating petitions was "clearly
wrong."

Plaintiffs in a suit against Mitchell represented 17 Democrats, who, along with supporting volunteers, collected 578 signatures on nominating petitions. But Mitchell accepted only 209 of the total, citing, in part, state law that prohibits one person from signing for another

from signing for another.
Saying the signatures were legal and genuine, the plaintiffs asked the court to order Mitchell to certify the petitions so a

Turn to Petition, Page 2

WETHERSFIELD COVE



A trench in the soil of a berm at Wethersfield Cove marks the spot where a tow truck dug in Tuesday while pulling the partially submerged car of Mary Herbert, 80, from the cove's waters. Herbert's body was found Wednesday near the location and police said Herbert's death is not likely the result of a crime. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

Missing North Branford woman found dead, police say

Mary Herbert was last seen Friday, and her car was pulled from the water Tuesday

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

The body of a North Branford 80-year-old was removed from Wethersfield Cove on Wednesday, one day after the missing woman's car was pulled from the water, police said.

Police don't believe her death was the result of a crime.

Mary Herbert had last been seen Friday. North Branford police received a call reporting her missing two days later, on Sunday, North Branford Deputy Chief James Lovelace said.

Her car was discovered some 26 miles away in a marshy area of the cove Tuesday afternoon after someone reported seeing it near Route 5/15. The car was removed from the water — which was up to its tires — but despite a search with drones and bloodhounds, police and firefighters were unable to find Herbert, Wethersfield Police Chief Rafael Medina said.

About 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, detectives returned to the cove and saw something that appeared to be a body, Medina said. He said the

water had receded since Tuesday. "We just now have what looks like a body," the chief said shortly

before 9 a.m. "We observed cloth-

Herbert may have driven around the berm and into the channel, perhaps because she was confused, Medina said. She was found a distance from the car, which did not appear to have been involved

in a crash.

Lovelace said his detectives will continue to investigate her death, but there appears to be "no foul play as Mrs. Herbert had some medical

issues." He did not elaborate. On behalf of the Wethersfield

Police Department, Acting Lt. Michael Wren said, "Our heartfelt sorrow is extended to the Herbert family."

He thanked the "countless efforts of the Wethersfield FD and the North Branford Police Department, as well as the Connecticut State Police and all those involved in this incident.

Christine Dempsey may be reached at cdempsey@courant.



William Leverett during a hearing in 2018 in Superior Court in Hartford. **COURANT FILE PHOTO**

Windsor Locks man pleads guilty in 'Simsbury jogger' murder case

By Jesse Leavenworth Hartford Courant

A man charged with stabbing and killing a woman as she jogged on a Simsbury trail in 2014 pleaded guilty to murder and is to be sentenced to 35 years in prison, the prosecutor in the case said Wednesday.

William Winters Leverett, 30, is to be sentenced on May 3. He has

been in jail since his arrest in 2018 for the killing of Melissa Millan, a mother of two and insurance executive. To avoid a trial, Supervisory Assistant State's Attorney Vicki Melchiorre said, Leverett agreed to a 35-year prison term and will have to serve a minimum of 25 years.

Melchiorre called the case "just bizarre and very scary."

Millan was found with fatal stab

wounds on a busy trail along Iron Horse Boulevard on Nov. 14, 2014. The killing stymied investigators, and police and town officials had offered a \$40,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer.

The case broke on Sept. 19, 2018, when Leverett, a registered sex offender working as an assis-

Turn to Murder, Page 2



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Connecticut Democrats push bills to reduce transportation emissions

By Alex Putterman Hartford Courant

With Connecticut lagging in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Democrats in the state legislature have introduced a pair of bills designed to minimize emissions in the transportation

One of the proposals would introduce new emissions standards for medium- and heavyduty trucks sold in Connecticut, while the other would incentivize the purchase of electric vehicles in the state. Supporters say the bills together would significantly curb transportation emissions, thereby mitigating climate change while also reducing local pollution.

Lawmakers pushing the proposals hope this year will be different from last, when the state legislature failed to pass any of several bills aimed at reducing transportation emissions — including the Transportation and Climate Initiative, which fell through amid wide opposition from Republicans and infighting among Democrats.

Here is what to know.

What would the medium- and heavy-duty emissions bill do?

Under House Bill 5039, introduced by Gov. Ned Lamont, Connecticut would adopt California's emissions standards for medium- and heavy-duty trucks, barring high-emission vehicles from being sold in the state. (Connecticut already uses California's emissions standards for light vehicles.)

The bill was previously introduced during last year's legislative session but died before reaching Lamont's desk.

A report released Wednesday by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection concluded that tighter emissions standards would "deliver significant environmental benefits to Connecticut residents, especially the most vulnerable, and reduce health costs for Connecticut's population."

Specifically, the report found, adoption of the new standards would lead to a substantial decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, a reduction in pollutants and savings on healthcare costs.

At a press conference Thursday, lawmakers noted that large vehicles in Connecticut and elsewhere account for a far disproportionate amount of greenhouse gas emissions and pollution.

"This bill is really about cracking down on the vehicles that are contributing most to the crisis of climate change," Sen. Will Haskell, a Westport Democrat, said at a press conference Wednesday. "We have to get serious about cracking down on these bad actors, not just because the health of our environment depends on it, but because ... the health of our environment correlates directly to the health of our population."

If H.B. 5039 passes, Connecticut would join New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon

tant manager at Fresh Market in

Avon, went to the Simsbury police

station and confessed, police have said. He then led investigators to

a bloody glove hidden behind a

wall on his grandparents' Sims-

bury property, records show. Tests

showed it contained Millan's DNA.

to the trail that night looking for

"human contact" after attending

a sex offenders meeting in Hart-

ford. When he spotted Millan,

a 54-year-old executive at Mass

Leverett told police he went



Middletown cars charge in a municipal lot near City Hall in November. Middletown is one of several Connecticut towns and cities that has electric vehicles as part of its municipal fleets. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

and Washington in adopting Cali-

fornia's standards for mediumand heavy-duty vehicles.

What would the bill incentivizing electric vehicles do?

Senate Bill 4 would promote the purchase of electric vehicles by providing rebates to residents, municipalities, businesses and others who purchase or lease electric vehicles. The rebates will be prioritized for low-income people and those in towns and cities designated as "environmental justice communities.'

We think this legislation is going to be enabling in a significant increase in the adoption of electric vehicles," DEEP commissioner Katie Dykes said. "Once you get the policies in place, we see consumers recognizing the benefits of these vehicles, and adoption can tick up really quickly."

Electric vehicles have been a focus for the Lamont Administration, as the governor has pledged to use federal funds to install charging stations statewide and to fully electrify Connecticut's bus fleet by 2035.

What do environmentalists

Several of Connecticut's largest environmental groups support both the proposed bills, which they describe as strong steps toward emissions reduction.

"They're both good bills and together represent a really significant effort to reduce transportation pollution in Connecticut, which is a serious problem for public health, environmental justice and climate," Samantha Dynowski, state director of Connecticut's Sierra Club chapter, said Wednesday.

Charles Rothenberger, an attorney with Save the Sound, said last month that new standards for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles will "go a long way toward not only helpingus reduce our climate emissions but also cleaning up local air pollution in our neighborhoods."

At Wednesday's press conference at the capitol, Save the Sound climate advocate Alex Rodriguez had a similar message.

"This bill is very important to me on a personal note, as many members within my family are

Mutual Life Insurance Co., he said

he became "mentally aroused,"

which then turned to anxiety and

anger when he realized. "I can't

have her" and "She was way out of

Millan around 8 p.m. in a dark-

ened part of the trail and stabbed

her in the chest, according to arrest

records. Millan pushed Leverett

away, forcing the knife out of her

chest as Leverett clutched the

weapon. Leverett said he heard

Millan say, "Oh, my God, oh, my

God, oh, my God," before she went

Melchiorre said she had jogged

quiet, records show.

Leverett said he approached

my league."

asthmatic, and I am asthmatic," he said. "Mitigation of carbon emissions is essential to our public

Dr. Mark Mitchell, co-chair of the National Medical Association's Commission on Environmental Health, said the legislative proposals could be particularly important in poor cities where air is often most polluted.

"Traffic-related air pollution is a major cause of illness and mortality in Hartford and around Connecticut." Mitchell said. "This legislation is a necessary first step to reducing emissions from diesel and transportation-related illness."

Are these bills likely to pass?

Last year, Democrats failed to pass the Transportation and Climate Initiative despite support from Lamont, key legislative leaders and most environmental groups.

This year, though, Democrats say they expect to have the necessary votes on their top environmental priorities.

"I don't expect too many roadblocks," said Sen. Christine Cohen, a Democrat from Guilford who co-chairs the environment committee. "Other states are moving in this direction, and I see no reason why we shouldn't see its passage this

Haskell said he views these new proposals as less contentious than TCI, which Republicans branded as a gas tax.

"SB4 has all the benefits of that prior legislation without the controversial components," he

Dynowski said she is also cautiously optimistic.

"This isn't going to be easy - it never is, and we could end up disappointed — but at the moment I have to look at it with optimism and encourage legislators with good information to help them keep moving forward,"

The environment and transportation committees will hear testimony regarding both bills at a public hearing Friday at 11 a.m. They will also hear testimony regarding a bill introduced by Rep. Joe Gresko, R-Stratford, that would use fees from motor vehicle registrations to fund green transportation initiatives.

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on the same path where Millan

was killed. She said she cannot

process how Leverett changed in a

moment from thinking Millan was

an attractive lady he would like to

meet to deciding to plunge a knife

into her chest. Leverett was evalu-

people out there like that that for

no apparent reason will just go up

and kill you," Melchiorre said. "He

knew what he was doing. He knew

what he was doing was wrong."

Jesse Leavenworth can be

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"It's just very scary that there are

ated and found sane, she said.

Hartford police investigate Tuesday night shooting

By Christine Dempsey Hartford Courant

A man was shot multiple times Tuesday night in Hartford, police said.

The man, who is in his 20s, showed up at Saint Francis Hospital with gunshot wounds about 8:45 p.m. He remains in stable condition, Lt. Aaron Boisvert said Wednesday morning.
Police learned the shooting

happened in the area of 1400 Albany Avenue, he said. Detectives with the department's Major Crimes and Crime Scene divisions continue to investigate.

The man was the 23rd victim of a nonfatal shooting in the city this year, Boisvert said. Hartford has had eight homicides in 2022.

Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call the department's tip line at 860-722-8477 (TIPS).

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Petition

from Page 1

primary could be held.

Mitchell and the plaintiffs agreed to a settlement on Feb. 22, but Mitchell, a financial advisor who started as registrar in January, backed out the next day, according to court documents.

'So, I reassert my proclamation/ statement on February 4, 2022: The required number of signatures to meet the requisite number of 479 accepted signatures to hold a primary for the Bloomfield Democratic Town Committee was not and has not been met!" he wrote.

In evidentiary hearings in late February and early March, Mitchell testified that he rejected signatures that were too similar. But he had to acknowledge a lack of training or expertise in evaluating handwriting, according to court documents. Also, he failed to follow up on his suspicions by contacting the signers in question, the court found.

Mitchell testified that after he identified potentially bogus signatures, he asked the town's Republican registrar and deputy registrar for their opinions. Again, the court found that neither of those officials had any expertise in handwriting or forged signatures.

Plaintiffs Bradley Klein and

Paula Jones, representing the challenge slate, presented testimony from voters whose signatures Mitchell had rejected. The witnesses testified that they personally signed the nominating petition in the presence of the circulator, as law requires. The court also heard from people circulating the petitions, who testified that no person signed on behalf of another, according to Budzik's

In a note on his decision, Budzik wrote that the Secretary of the State's office "conceded that there is no statute, regulation, manual or other administrative rule governing or providing any guidance to Mr. Mitchell as to how he is to determine that a signature on a candidate petition is genuine."

Mitchell testified that when he phoned the Secretary of the State's office to ask how to verify signatures, he was directed to the state **Elections Enforcement Commis**sion, which then redirected him to the Secretary of the State's office, according to the court.

Nevertheless, while Mitchel acted in good faith, the judge wrote, his conclusion that some signatures were fraudulent was "based on pure speculation and is without any objective factual basis."

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Budget

from Page 1

and cautioned that there is no way to accurately calculate the tax increase on an average home because revaluation changed all assessments separately.

Individual homeowners can figure their own tax impact by applying the proposed tax rate of 39.83 mills to their updated assess-

"Residential and commercial property values have not changed in a consistent manner in all neighborhoods," Ledwith said. "The impact on tax bills will be determined by the change in individual property values from the current year to the next year."

The town is spending \$308.4 million this year on schools, local government operations and long-term capital improvements; Ledwith proposes raising that to \$317.9 million. More than half of the additional money would go to the schools, with about \$4.8 million going to pay increases for teachers, aides, principals, custodians and other staff.

The school system is cutting more than a half-dozen jobs because of declining enrollment, but still needs more salary funds to cover the negotiated pay raises, Superintendent Tom Moore told the board of education last week.

The schools will also need an additional \$1.5 million for higher contractual costs for busing and out-of-town tuition for special education students.

"As we know, our children have been significantly impacted by the pandemic, and I do feel this is a fair and responsible budget that maintains our investment in our future," Ledwith said. Ledwith wants to earmark \$3

million toward the start of a longterm plan for improving the air-circulation system at the elementary "The majority of our elementary

schools were built prior to 1964 and lack fresh air ventilation, and this 15-year project will allow us to address those deficiencies," he told

As part of the community's Emergency Preparedness Plan, Ledwith would put \$2 million toward the multiyear schedule for installing permanent generators at town hall, the library, the downtown firehouse and both high schools.

The town plans to put \$3 million toward replacing the 24 tennis courts at Conard and Hall high schools, which Ledwith said sustain heavy use from students and from the public. $\,$

Ledwith's long-term capital proposal includes a simulator system for the police department's training division. Officers would practice using weapons as well as de-escalation tactics.

"The system also has scenarios specifically meant to train people working with the special needs community as well as school security guards and educators who would benefit from this," Ledwith

The other significant expense in the capital budget plan is the New Park Avenue redesign.

"This will improve attractiveness, safety and mobility for all users by incorporating traffic-calming and Complete Streets elements such as a travel lane reduction from four lanes to three," he said. "There will be a bike lane in each direction to connect New Britain Avenue. Elmwood, the CT fastrak bus station, the Trout Brook Trail and many destinations along this corridor," he

Other improvements along New Park between Oakwood and New Britain Avenue include decorative street lighting, sidewalk upgrades, new landscaping and better cross-

The council will hold hearings March 16 and April 6 along with numerous review workshops, and is scheduled to adopt a budget April 25.

Housing

Murder

from Page 1

Housing costs spiked in 2021, and experts expect them to continue to rise this year.

State Rep. Jennifer Leeper, a Democrat from Fairfield, sponsored the bill. She said 8-30g had disproportionately affected a handful of towns, including Fairfield, where housing projects are adding "a tremendous amount of density."

"There may not be a single issue that has been as divisive in our community of Fairfield as 8-30g has," Leeper said.

Groups that submitted testimony in favor of the study included the Connecticut Association of Realtors, the Connecticut Council of Small Towns and Save the Sound, among others. Save the Sound requested that the study examine the climate resiliency of

Other legislators, many from Fairfield County, spoke about problems with 8-30g such as a lack of local control and difficulty meeting the 10% threshold that exempts towns from the court appeals process outlined in 8-30g. Those legislators pushed for the study.

State Rep. Laura Devlin, a Republican who lives in Fairfield, also gave testimony arguing for the bill. She said it had failed at its objective and said some existing neighborhoods that are affordable are not counted toward the 10% threshold.

What 8-30g has done is create a path for incredible wealth-building among developers, as they are able to circumvent local zoning and exploit the statue for their own financial gain," Devlin said in writ-

ten testimony. State Rep. Raghib Allie-Brennan, a Democrat from Bethel, also spoke about the flaws in 8-30g and suggested taking it a step further than a study.

"I question the value of this additional step," Allie-Brennan said of the study. "The longstanding deficiencies which have plagued this process are already extensively documented. What we need now

He asked the Housing Committee to consider an amendment to 8-30g that would award the equivalent of five housing units toward the 10% threshold to localities that develop, review and amend an affordable housing plan and enact regulations under 8-30g.

Housing advocates and some legislators spoke against the bill and in favor of 8-30g.

Rep. Roland Lemar, the Democratic majority caucus chair and a New Haven resident, said he resented attacks on the affordable housing law.

"It's done exactly what it was supposed to do, which is create tens of thousands of private market affordable housing units across our state," Lemar said. "It's done exactly what we wanted it to do. ... We didn't become one of the most segregated states in the country on accident. It was through local control that that happened."

The law has also kept housing affordability at the forefront of local officials' minds, Sean Ghio, policy director at the Partnership for Strong Communities, said in an

Advocates and officials have said that restrictive zoning makes it difficult to construct new multi-family housing in Connecticut. Multi-family housing is typically more affordable for families with lower incomes.

Without it [8-30g], towns really could just continue to ignore the need for affordable housing in their region," Ghio said. Representatives from other

groups including Desegregate CT, the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and the Open Communities Alliance, among others, spoke against the proposed study.

Karen DuBois-Walton, president of Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of the City of New Haven, spoke about the need for more housing she sees in her work. She said the housing authority's waiting list has more than 17,000 families, and some wait for years for assistance.

"I urge this committee to vote against this bill, which will serve only to distract from our state's fundamental failure to provide enough affordable housing," DuBois-Walton said in written testimony. "There are bills before this committee this session that would $help\, solve\, problems - this\, one\, does$ no such thing."

ASYLUM HILL

Chopin International Piano Competition returns

By Christopher Arnott Hartford Courant

The 13th annual Chopin International Piano Competition in Hartford is live at the Asylum Hill Congregational Church through Sunday, with dozens of pianists competing for thousands of dollars in prizes and the acknowledgment that they are exceptional at playing some of the most beautiful music ever written.

The local competition isn't directly related to the Chopin Piano Competition held annually in Warsaw, Poland, but some Hartford winners have gone on to compete in Warsaw, including teen prodigy JJ Jun Li Bui three years ago.

"My idea," says Krystian Tkaczewski, the competition's artistic director, "is to give a chance to everybody. If they feel they can do it, they can apply."

Tkaczewski is the president of the five-person jury that screens the applicants and selects the winners. There are three days of auditions, Wednesday through Friday, after which the winners are chosen. The winners in each category perform Sunday.

As for the judging, "there are endless ways of performing Chopin music," says Tkaczewski, who also serves as president of the jury, "I'm against rigid standards. If I close my eyes and start following someone's vision, if it's logical and touching, then it should be heard."

Last year's competition was held online, with pre-recorded entries, because of the pandemic.

When the first competition was held a decade ago, 17 pianists took part. This year, 91 will play. Competitors hail from across the U.S. and many foreign countries, recently including Armenia, Canada and Japan. Most are from Massachusetts, New Jersey, Connecticut and other areas



Hartford's Chopin International Piano Competition hosts its 13th annual event through March 13 at Asylum Hill Congregation Church. Last year's competition had to be done virtually. Katherine Liu, above, performs in 2019. CHOPIN INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION HARTFORD

within driving distance.

There are four categories: Young Talents, 10 years or younger; Junior for up to age 13; Young Artist for up to 17 years; and Professional, which is open to any age. Tkaczewski says that contestants have been as young as 5 or 6, and that the teen-centric categories were recently tweaked due to the great difference in playing ability among young performers. The Young Artists and Professional categories have cash prizes from \$100 to

The competition auditions continue Friday from 4 to 7:15 p.m. and Saturday from 4 to 7:15 p.m. for the Junior category. The Young Talents (ages 10 and under) audition Saturday from 3 to 8:30 p.m.

All the audition performances are open to the public, at no cost. Tickets to the 3 p.m. Sunday performance of winners are \$25.

The competition is named for Frédéric Chopin, the 19th century Polish composer known for his stirring works for solo piano. Contestants are allowed to play other composers, however, from classical to modern, and Tkaczewski doesn't expect Chopin from the 5- or 6-year-olds: "People shouldn't give Chopin to such a young age.'

The Hartford competition began in 2010 at the Polish National Home of Hartford on Charter Oak Avenue; that year was the 200th anniversary of Chopin's birth. It later moved to the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts for two years, then to the Asylum Hill Congregational Church.

The church has "one of the best concert pianos in the city," Tkaczewski says, plus "an 850-seat auditorium and great opportunities for practice before the competition. Most importantly, the acoustics in

the church are wonderful."

Tkaczewski calls Hartford's Chopin International Piano Competition "very special for me, my second baby" (because he also has an actual child). He's from Poland, studied at the Hartt School and has competed in national and international competitions, winning more than 20 prizes.

"I wanted to give something back," he says.

Details are at chopincompetition.org.

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\$5M settlement reached over consumer complaints about home security business

By Stephen Singer Hartford Courant

Connecticut and a home security business in Middletown have agreed to a \$5 million settlement to resolve long-standing consumer complaints, state officials said Wednesday.

Attorney General William Tong and Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle H. Seagull said Safe Home Security "repeatedly failed over many years to comply with court-ordered consumer protection measures." The judgment also names the company's president, David

Joseph Lipari, outside counsel for Safe Home Security, disputed criticism of the company by Tong and Seagull. The company was not found during litigation to have engaged in wrongdoing, he said.

Safe Home is a highly respected company with satisfied customers across the country," he said. "Significantly, there was no finding of liability or wrongdoing, and Safe Home simply settled the suit with the attorney general as a business decision and in order to avoid protracted litigation."

The company has employed many hundreds of Connecticut workers over two decades, Lipari said, and is "very disappointed the attorney general would put out this inaccurate statement about this Connecticut company.'

Tong and Seagull said hundreds of angry consumers complained they were locked into bad contracts and left with broken and poorly installed equipment.

The attorney general's office sued



State Attorney General William Tong and Consumer Protection Commissioner Michelle Seagull reached a \$5 $million\,settlement\,with\,a\,Middletown\,home\,security\,business\,over\,consumer\,complaints.$ CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Safe Home Security in 2007 over consumer complaints that alarm and monitoring systems were often defective or negligently installed, technicians were not regularly available and missed appointments and long-term contracts did not comply with Connecticut law and were renewed automatically without consumers able to cancel, the officials said.

The state reached a settlement with the company in 2014 requiring \$30,000 in customer restitution, a \$70,000 civil penalty to the

state and other provisions.

Tong sought a contempt order in 2019 claiming the company continued to block consumers from terminating long-term contracts, misrepresented the terms of contracts to consumers, charged for services when alarm systems weren't working and other conduct.

Officials returned to Hartford Superior Court for the \$5 million penalty to force Safe Home Security to follow the law and provide customers with functioning security systems and reliable customer

service, Tong said. When it is entered by the court, the judgment will require Safe Home Security to pay \$1 million within 10 months and \$4 million pending the company's compli-

ance with the judgment, Tong said. Safe Home Security also must hire an independent monitor to review its compliance for five

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21-year old gang member gets 40 years in prison

By Edmund H. Mahony Hartford Courant

A federal court on Wednesday sentenced a 21-year old member of a violent Bridgeport gang to spend the next 40 years in prison for a murder, the attempted murder of four more people and a rash of other crimes.

Tyiese Warren, also known as "Loose Screw," was part of a drug gang on Bridgeport's north side and had previously pleaded guilty, among other things, to involvement in a brazen, midday assassination attempt outside a busy Bridgeport courthouse in January 2020. Warren and others pumped at least 20 shots into the car containing four members of a rival gang in retaliation for the killing of a northside gangster by one of the rivals the night before.

No one was killed in the courthouse attack, which left 23 bullet holes in just the front windshield of the parked Chevrolet. The four victims were hit, two seriously. One was paralyzed and a second victim sustained multiple gunshot wounds to his back, shoulder and wrist, prosecutors

Warren also pleaded guilty to the revenge murder a month earlier of Tv'Quess Moore, who was associated with a rival gang on the city's east side.

Battles for drug turf among the Bridgeport gangs has resulted both in remarkable violence and concerted effort by law enforcement to stamp it out. Federal prosecutors, who charged Warren and other with racketeering offenses, asked U.S. District Judge Kari Dooley to put Warren in prison for

50 years, arguing he is incorrigible and that many of the criminal acts included under his racketeering conviction were committed after he was released from confinement at a state jail for teenagers.

"What is perhaps most galling about this case is that Warren committed the eight predicate acts to which he admitted during his plea allocution — including narcotics trafficking, carjacking, Hobbs Act Robbery, attempted murder and murder — in the seven months after his release from Manson Youth Institution," federal prosecutors argued to

Warren was convicted of multiple crimes in addition to murder and attempted murder.

In just hours on March 25, 2020, Warren and an accomplice stole a car at gas station in Stratford, dragging the owner hundreds of yards as he hung on, trying to stop the theft. Warren and the accomplice then carjacked a Toyota in Bridgeport, holding the owner at gunpoint and ultimately driving away in the car. Minutes later, Warren and the accomplice robbed another gas station in Stratford at gunpoint, taking cash from the store and a cellphone from an employee.

The Stratford police finally caught up with Warren later in the day after he crashed yet another stolen car on an I-95 on-ramp and tried to run away

Warren also admitted that he participated in gang-related drug trafficking. He was convicted of conspiracy to engage in a pattern of racketeering activity. He has been locked up since March 25,

Man gets prison for drug, gun charges

Staff report

A Hartford man was sentenced to more than three years in prison Tuesday for drug distribution and firearm possession offenses, according to federal authorities.

Gladstone Benjamin Jr., 30, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Kari A. Dooley in Bridgeport to total of 42 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, according to federal authorities.

Federal authorities, citing court documents and statements made in court, said Hartford police made two controlled purchases of marijuana from Benjamin at his Collins Street residence in April 2019.

Then, on April 23, 2019, investigators "conducted a court-authorized search of Gladstone's residence and found a loaded Taurus 9mm handgun with an extended clip; two loaded Taurus .45 caliber handguns; a loaded semiautomatic handgun that did not contain a make, model or serial number stamp; a Remington Arms 12 gauge shotgun with an unreadable serial number; more than 1,000 rounds of loose and boxed ammunition, and distribution quantities of heroin and marijuana," federal authorities said in a statement.

Benjamin's criminal history includes state felony convictions for firearm and drug offenses, federal authorities said, noting it is a violation of federal law for "anyone previously convicted of a felony offense to possess a firearm or ammunition that has moved in interstate or foreign commerce."

Benjamin pleaded guilty on Feb. 8, 2021, to one count of possession with intent to distribute heroin and marijuana, and one count of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, federal authorities said in the

But on Feb. 26, 2021, Benjamin, who was free on bond, was arrested by Hartford police after they found him in a car with two firearms, federal authorities said in the statement. He has been detained since his arrest, and his state charges are pending.

This investigation was conducted by the FBI's Northern Connecticut Gang Task Force and the Hartford Police Department. The FBI Task Force includes members of the Hartford, East Hartford, New Britain, and West Hartford police departments, Connecticut State Police and state Department of Correction. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anastasia E. King and Konstantin

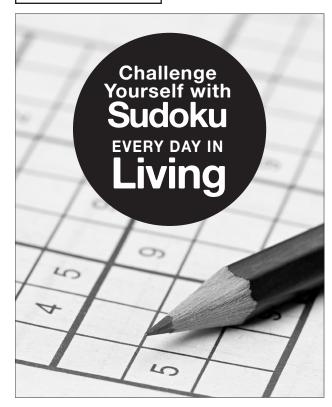


PUBLIC NOTICES

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 576 Danbury Road, New Milford, CT, 06776, 3/24/22 at 11:00 AM. Jacqueline Montgomery unit #170, containing chair, Table, Bags, Boxes. household items, Craig S. Vandenbruelle, unit #234, containing Chairs, Table, Chandliers, Bags, Boxes. Antoine Vassilladis, Unit #365, containing Chairs, Scale, Grill, Totes bicycles, Clothes, Stereo

tised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facil ity in order to complete the transaction Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 3/10, 3/17/2022 7161533

those individuals listed below at the location indicated: 578 Federal Road, location indicated: 578 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT 06804, March 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM. Craig Vandenbrulle unit 2055, Furniture. Kathleen Green unit 2702, cloths and household items. John Testani unit 1057, Household items. The auction will be listed and advertised on News storagetreasures come. Purchases. www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 3/10, 3/17/2022 7161707





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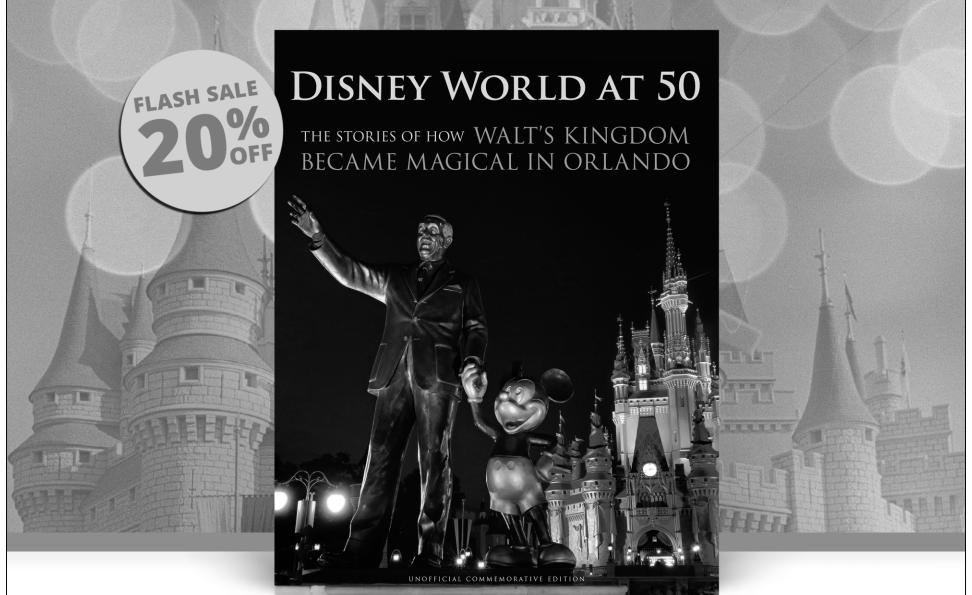
Hartford Courant

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Former television reporter Kelly Brennan with her 4-year-old daughter, Caroline, on Dec. 21, in McCandless, Pennsylvania. ANDREW RUSH/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

Infusions with a smile

When her daughter was diagnosed with a rare disease, mom stepped up with a children's book

By Joshua Axelrod Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH – Kelly Brennan wanted to prepare her daughter, Caroline, for the challenges ahead. Unfortunately, there wasn't much in the way of literature available to help a toddler understand what her new normal would look like.

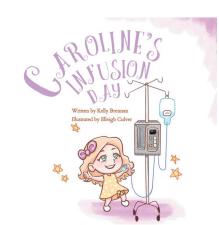
It was around her second birthday when Caroline was diagnosed with juvenile dermatomyositis, a rare autoimmune disease that has required her to receive plasma infusions at UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh every few weeks for basically half her life at this point. The 4-year-old's whole family has rallied around this brave girl, including her father, Kevin Culver, 6-year-old sister Lily and Brennan, a former TV reporter.

Caroline is now a veteran of the infusion process, but her mom was still distraught that there were no kid-friendly books out there for children going through similar medical routines on a regular basis.

"I couldn't find anything specifically talking about an infusion, having an IV in your body all day long and being confined to this one space as a little one who wants to do nothing but get up and move around," Brennan said. "It was at that time that I thought, 'We need to have a book for this."

On Dec. 6, she released "Caroline's Infusion Day," a children's book walking kids through one of her daughter's regular hospital visits. Brennan wrote the rhyming story, while her 16-yearold niece Elleigh Culver did all the book's illustrations. Ideally, they would both like to get the book into hospitals and into the hands of parents with kids going through an ordeal similar to Caroline's.

"I want the other families to know



"Caroline's Infusion Day" is a children's book written by Kelly Brennan about her daughter, Caroline. KELLY BRENNAN

that they are seen," Brennan said. "It can be a very isolating journey and very heavy. But they are not alone."

At first, no one could seem to figure out why Caroline was crying all the time. Brennan felt a sense of relief when Caroline was finally diagnosed. but also said it "was the scariest point of our life" because juvenile dermatomyositis was so uncommon that the family didn't have anyone they could lean on for advice.

For the first two years of her treatment, Caroline was going in for infusions every four weeks. A routine quickly began to form where Brennan's family would come over to watch Lily, who would stand on a rock at the edge of their property and wave goodbye as her parents and sister drove to Children's Hospital.

Brennan and Culver would always arrive prepared with snacks, toys, other distractions and Band-Aids that Caroline loves handing out to other infusion patients. She receives an intravenous immunoglobulin treatment that used to keep her hospitalized for 14 hours,

sometimes overnight. The family would pass the time by playing games, driving around the halls of Children's in a toy car and just generally keeping Caroline preoccupied.

On occasion, Brennan's older sister, Courtney Brennan, a former TV reporter, would watch Lily while the rest of the family was hospital-bound.

These days, Caroline only has to go in for infusions four days a week that last just six to eight hours. She used to take eight medications a day, but now only has to deal with one or two. Everyone can see how much stronger Caroline seems and for how much longer that resilience lasts between treatments.

"She's very inspiring," Culver, of Thornville, Ohio, said of Caroline. "She inspired this book. She's strong and honestly, I hope to be like her. I'm over a decade older than her, but I want to

be like her and Kelly."
In 2017, Kelly decided to step away from news reporting while still pregnant with Caroline. Courtney opted to leave her station in 2019.

Kelly said she misses "the team that I worked with and that type of storytelling," but not so much the hustle and bustle of the news business. Finding a new professional path has given her "a great balance for the work and home life that I was trying to achieve," especially with how much extra care Caroline needs.

Courtney described her niece as "spunky and sassy," two qualities she believes have helped Caroline thrive despite the hardships she faces due to her illness. She is proud of Caroline for being so brave in the face of something she's too young to fully understand and of her sister for not only being a super mom, but now also for "the impact she's going to have with this book going forward.'

"Caroline's Infusion Day" was the culmination of everything Kelly has observed about her daughter's infusion experience that she hopes will also help both parents and their children with their own situations. She used her own "mom training" to make such a heavy subject as digestible as possible for the younger crowd.

"We had to break it down step by step," she said. "As much as I want it to be joyful and uplifting, it has to be honest. ... I find that I have to be honest but not go over the top with scaring the child. I was trying to find that balance of what to expect, how's it going to feel and what it will look like."

Culver took care of the aesthetics, which she managed to capture without ever actually attending one of Caroline's infusion days due to COVID-19 hospital restrictions. Her aunt would text her photos that she drew inspiration from for her illustrations that she said were "a bit of a middle ground" between realism and more cartoonish visuals.

Courtney recalled going to Caroline's first few infusions with her and how scared and upset the little girl was. She went with Kelly and Caroline to a recent infusion and was struck by Caroline's sunny disposition. To Courtney, Caroline's spirit make her the perfect protagonist for a book that kids like her can hopefully relate to.

And her mom is certain that Caroline has a bright future ahead of her.

"I don't know why this is her journey," Kelly said. "I don't know that we'll ever know why. But I know that something great always comes out of something that's so challenging. There's a future for her that's built upon the strength and courage that she's building on the face of this.

"This disease will not limit her. She won't let it."

Blood test could gauge risks after heart surgery

HealthDay News

About 2 million adults worldwide undergo heart surgery each year, and checking blood levels of a certain protein could help assess their risk of death within 30 days, a new study

Blood tests to check levels of troponin — a type of protein found in heart muscle - have long been used to evaluate the risk of death and serious complications after heart attack, but the tests are not commonly done after heart surgery.

This new study found that elevated troponin levels were associated with an increased risk of death after heart bypass or open

heart surgery.
"This study is a landmark for the health teams taking care of patients after cardiac surgery," said study co-author André Lamy, a professor of surgery at McMaster University in Canada.

"For the first time, we have a marker that is fast and reliable for the monitoring of these patients after cardiac surgery," Lamy said.

This study included nearly 16,000 adult heart surgery patients, average age 63, in 12 countries. By 30 days after surgery, more than 2% of patients had died, and about 3% had experienced a major vascular complication, such as heart attack, stroke or a life-threatening blood clot.

The patients' troponin levels were measured before and daily for the first

few days after surgery. "We found that the levels of troponin associated with an increased risk of death within 30 days were substantially higher - 200 to 500 times the normal value — than troponin levels that surgical teams are currently told defines the risk of a patient having one of the most common complications after heart surgery - myocardial



DREAMSTIME

injury, a heart muscle injury associated with increased deaths," said lead study author P.J. Devereaux. He's a senior scientist at McMaster and a cardi-

ologist at Hamilton Health Sciences.

The study was published this month in the New England Journal of Medi-

Ferrell lightens mood for Warriors

From news services

Will Ferrell screamed and put a hand in Klay Thompson's face as the Golden State star lofted a baseline 3-pointer.

Nice defensive close out, no doubt.

Ferrell took the floor and warmed up with the slumping Warriors on Tuesday night — maybe just what coach Steve Kerr's team needed before facing the Los Angeles Clippers mired in a fivegame losing streak.

The comedy star donned a vintage-style headband and dressed in his Jackie Moon jersey from the 2008 hoops film "Semi-Pro," a moment that was meant especially for Thompson – who dressed as Moon for Halloween three years ago and loves the movie.

Ferrell banked in a halfcourt shot on his second try and passed to Stephen Curry, even using his foot to kick the basketball to the reigning scoring champ before Curry knocked down a 3 to complete his pregame routine.

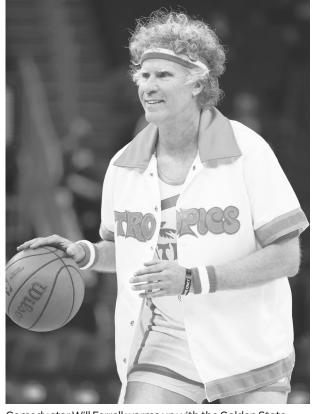
The Warriors and their crowd loved every minute of Ferrell's surprise appearance.

That was awesome," former Warriors big man Zaza Pachulia said. "We needed that energy."

Eminem now RIAA's No.1 awarded act for singles:

Oscar and Grammy-winning rapper Eminem has become the Recording Industry Association of America's No. 1 awarded act for singles in the 64-year history of the Gold & Platinum program.

The trade organization revealed Tuesday 73.5 million new award units for Eminem, upping his career haul to 227.5 million: 166 million single certifications and 61.5 million album certifications. The rapper, whose given name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III, also



Comedy star Will Ferrell warms up with the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday in San Francisco. JED JACOBSOHN/AP

becomes one of only seven artists with three or more Diamond-certified albums for sales of at least 10 million units in the U.S. Six of his 11 albums are diamond albums.

Dylan pens book of essays: Bob Dylan has a new book coming out this fall, a collection of more than 60 essays about songs and songwriters he admires, from Stephen Foster to Elvis Costello.

The new book, "The Philosophy of Modern Song," is the singer-songwriter's first release of new material since the memoir "Chronicles, Volume One" was published in 2004. "The Philosophy of Modern Song" is scheduled for Nov. 8.

"He analyzes what he calls the trap of easy rhymes, breaks down how the addition of a single syllable can diminish a song, and even explains how bluegrass relates to

heavy metal," according to an announcement Tuesday by Simon & Schuster.

Tony Awards set for June: The Tony Awards will once again take place in June and at a familiar location, Radio City Music Hall. The Broadway League and the American Theatre Wing announced Wednesday that the awards will be handed out June 12 and aired on CBS. There was no word on a host. Nominations will be announced May 3.

March 10 birthdays: Musician Norman Blake is 84. Actor Chuck Norris is 82. Actor Sharon Stone is 64. Magician Lance Burton is 62. Actor Jasmine Guy is 60. Bassist Jeff Ament is 59. Actor Paget Brewster is 53. Actor Jon Hamm is 51. Rapper Timbaland is 50. Singer Robin Thicke is 45. Singer Carrie Underwood is 39. Actor Emily Osment



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

At-home dad seeks definition of Mr. Mom

Dear Amy: I'm a 25-yearold guy. I have a 16-monthold daughter that I stay home with full time. One phrase keeps coming up that I absolutely hate.

People often say to me: "You're a Mr. Mom!" Sometimes they follow this by saying, "... but there's nothing wrong with that."

My reason for writing is to get some clarification on what a "Mr. Mom" is.

Is it a put-down because I stay at home with our daughter? Or is it just another way to say stay-athome parent?

— Possibly Mad Dad

Dear Dad: With my response, I am revealing my self-proclaimed superpower as a movie database in human form.

"Mr. Mom" is the title of a movie released in 1983. featuring the great character actors Michael Keaton and Teri Garr as a couple with three children who are forced to switch traditional gender roles when he loses his job in the auto industry. She goes back to work, and he stays home.

When this film was released, the idea of a father who stayed at home with his children was so novel that it was deemed both heartwarming and hilarious.

Approximately 1 in 5 American children have one stay-at-home parent, and stay-at-home dads make up roughly 17% of that number. (Figures measuring at-home dads are mutable, based on various parameters; for instance, the U.S. Census seems only to count dads who are married to their female partners.)

Surely the pandemic will shift this at-home

parenting balance. Is "Mr. Mom" a put-

down? I don't think so. It's just one of those signifiers that people use when they encounter something they feel the need to name.

Also – speaking from personal experience (as a longtime single mom) when someone condescendingly tells you that "there's nothing wrong with" your perfectly healthy and functioning domestic situation, you can respond: "Hey, thanks! I was worried about what you might think."

Wink, wink. The National At Home Dad Network (athomedad. org) offers blogs, a podcast, and many ways to connect with "the brotherhood of

fatherhood."

Dear Amy: I'm hoping you can help provide an answer to a dilemma. A high-ranking person where my wife works constantly calls her by a name that isn't hers.

She has told this person (on numerous occasions), "That is not my name. My name is ..." to no avail.

It happened again in a staff meeting. Afterwards, this person asked her if everything was all right. She lost it and told him "No you keep calling me by a name that isn't mine!

He said, "It isn't personal." How much more personal can it be? She is now afraid she will be fired. I told her to discuss it with HR. Your

thoughts? – Concerned Husband

Dear Concerned: I cannot imagine the possible grounds for firing someone who is merely asking and expecting to be respected in this way.

This high-ranking person did not apologize, or say, "I'm sorry — I seem to have something of a block regarding your name." He said, "This isn't personal." And yet — as you point out — there is nothing quite so personal as someone's name.

Whether your wife should take this personally is another matter. In my experience, people who refuse to take things personally in the workplace seem to plow forward with few complications.

The reason for your wife to discuss this with HR would be to establish that this has been an ongoing issue. Therefore, if this happens again, she can demonstrate a pattern.

Dear Amy: "Just Wondering" was asking about the appropriate way to address a letter carrier.

When I attended college back in the 1970s, I was lucky enough to score 100 on a civil servant exam and then to get a summer job at the U.S. Post Office.

It was unheard of back then for women to be mail carriers (I was the only female working with 30 men) so when the kids would see me out on the street they would call out, "Here comes the female(mail)man!

My, have times changed! - Linda, the Philly Male Carrier

Dear Linda: "Male carrier." I wonder how many women would claim that

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McDermott reinvents modern gangster on 'Organized Crime'

By John Carucci Associated Press

The DNA for Dylan McDermott to reinvent the modern-day gangster began at childhood and carried through to his struggling actor days, when the "Law and Order: Organized Crime" star says he was "surrounded by the ilk" of unsavory types.

McDermott, 60, who grew up in New York, waited tables and tended bar, often serving local mobsters, where he observed their capricious behavior, he says. And when he was younger, he had an even closer relationship.

"My mother's boyfriend was a bank robber when I was growing up," he said.

"They all end up either dead or in prison. So, there's no good stories there. He got his end, and it was not — not good."

(His parents split when the actor was a child, and his mother. Diane McDermott, died in what was ruled an accidental shooting in 1967. In 2012, a reopened police investigation concluded that she was killed by her now-dead gangster boyfriend.)

This convergence of real-life experiences helped Dylan McDermott bring Richard Wheatley to life, with a multipleepisode arc on "Law & Order: Organized Crime" that wrapped recently.

"I was privy to a world that probably most actors would not be. And I always absorbed that, and I always took it in. And I hoped one day to be able to use that, all that information in my own life and put it into a character. And then Richard Wheatley presented himself," McDermott said.

Deadly, smart and "woke," the Wheatley character defied the uncouth, knuckledragging demeanor so often seen in this type of



Dylan McDermott as Richard Wheatley in "Law & Order: Organized Crime." VIRGINIA SHERWOOD/NBC

role. Wheatley, the CEO of an online pharmaceutical company, the son of a New York mobster, and a father with close ties to his children, had more of the depth of a Bond villain than a New York gangster.

With danger and modernity, Wheatley adds another dimension that breaks away from the stereotype, potentially redefining the "bad guy" character in the future.

Many storylines from the "Law & Order" franchise are one and done. Some villains may have a multiple-episode arc, but McDermott was blessed with eight episodes to tell his story. And that quickly turned to 16 after executive producer Dick Wolf found it necessary to continue the Wheatley storyline.

His nemesis on the series, police detective Elliot Stabler, who was last seen on "Law & Order: SVU," is played by Christopher Meloni, a franchise fan favorite.

Meloni applauded the choices made by his scene partner. At a recent event celebrating the return of the original "Law & Order," Meloni agreed that McDermott has reinvented the modern-day gangster by "avoiding a minefield of cliche."

"He didn't fall into the traps an actor could have tripped on. He is the villain for the 21st century," Meloni said.

As an actor, McDermott initially found success in the 1990s legal drama "The Practice," before going on to a successful movie career, including a role in the Oscar-nominated "King Richard." Up next, McDermott is starring in the new season of "FBI: Most Wanted."

So, why the trek back to network television? When he started acting, playing in back-to-back television series was not always thought to be the best move for a film career, but the landscape has changed.

"My theory in my career has always been to run into the burning building, whatever that is. Back then, in the '90s, if you went on a television show, it was a tip that your film career was in trouble," McDermott said.

Instead, his Richard Wheatley — what he calls a convergence of "fiction and nonfiction" - might someday be mentioned alongside the likes of iconic bad guys Tony Soprano ("The Sopranos"), Avon Barksdale ("The Wire") or Marsellus Wallace ("Pulp Fiction").

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19): Deciphering people's meanings and intentions could be more difficult than usual today. Avoid trying to hammer out any important deals or having any serious conversations, as it will be only too easy to miss the mark.

Taurus (April 20-May

20): Today could bring a temporary dissonance between your work and your social life. You might get invited to check out a fresh opportunity or two! If people ask you to come out and play, that's totally fine, but make sure you complete your work first! A forgotten chore could bite you in the butt later.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): What you want to do and what you must do are likely two different things today, but deciphering between them won't be the easiest. The main problem is that you might have trouble getting clear on them, preferring to stick vour head in the sand like an ostrich.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Daydreams could take you a little too far from where you're meant to be today. You could feel like anything is possible when that really isn't the case. Try to keep your feet on the ground, because tempting offers are likely nothing more than pretty illusions.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Today may feel like a game of hide and seek, but whether you're hiding or seeking is another matter altogether. You want to be the life of the party one minute then slink off on your own the next. Try not to commit to anything you don't absolutely want to be a part of.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone may get in the way of your ambitions at the moment. Your partnership could lead to a person sticking a pin in your plans. It's a good idea to keep your thoughts to yourself, because people won't be as supportive. Play your cards close to your chest for now you can reveal your hand another time.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There's a line to be drawn between what's possible and what's realistic. There are tasks that need doing in the here and now before you can jet off to new horizons. Try to bring some creative thinking to your normal routine — that can allow you to blend these energies beautifully.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trying to get clear about what you want could be rather complicated for you right now. Your house will throw a wrench in your works. Emotionally, you'll likely want to be alone or with maybe one other person at most. Accept that you might feel a bit all over the place.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. **21):** Socializing might sound fun, but it may be hard to make it work today. Put your focus on the people in your life. Alternately, a family member might bring up an issue that requires your attention. Don't be shocked if you have to force plans onto the back burner.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You could be at the top of your game, but something might still slip through the cracks. Distractions make it easy for you to forget about one or two obligations you might have previously scheduled. Give yourself lots of space, because delays are more likely than normal.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have every reason to enjoy yourself — at least until your bank account reminds you otherwise. The urge to throw caution to the wind could result in some miscalculations when it comes to your wallet. It's very nice to cover drinks, but focus on covering your own bases.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Your feelings are likely to change at the drop of a hat, making you feel like you've hopped on an emotional merry-go-round. Your personal needs could leave you scratching your head as to what you feel. Don't hold yourself to any one point. Things could look different tomorrow!

TODAY IN **HISTORY**

Associated Press

On March 10, 1906, about 1,100 miners in northern France were killed by a coal-dust explosion.

In 1913, former slave and abolitionist Harriet Tubman died in New York. In 1965, Neil Simon's play "The Odd Couple," starring Walter Matthau and Art Carney, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1985, Konstantin U. Chernenko, who was the Soviet Union's leader for 13 months, died at age 73; he

was succeeded by Mikhail Gorbachev.

In 1988, pop singer Andy Gibb died in Oxford. England, at age 30.

In 2015, Hillary Clinton conceded that she should have used government email as secretary of state but insisted she had not violated any federal laws or Obama administration rules.

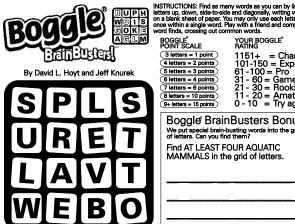
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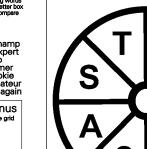
An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at **PlayJumble.com**



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Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise. **TSIRITAS**

WordWheel

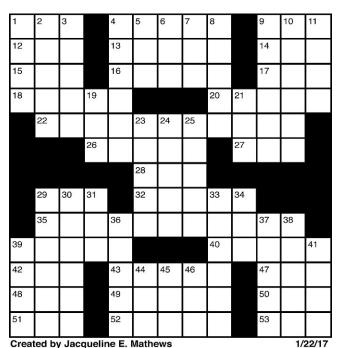
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- 35 Role on "NCIS"
- 39 Change of __; defense attorney's request
- 40 Actress Claire 42 "Sister __"; film for Whoopi

All Rights Reserved.

- 43 Actor __Zimbalist Jr.
 47 Peg for Palmer
 48 Suffix for favor or meteor
 49 "Without a __"; Eric Close series
 50 Arden or Plumb
 51 Psychedelic drug, for short
 52 "Mexica's Get Talent" judge
- 52 "America's Got Talent" judge
- 53 "The __ Skelton Hour"

DOWN

- 1 Desi Arnaz Sr.'s birthplace 2 "You Don't __ Me Flowers"; Neil Diamond/Barbra Streisand song
- 3 "On your mark, get __!" 4 Flow back
- 5 Cochlea's place
- 6 Gun rights org.7 Movie for Bob Newhart, Edward Asner and Will Ferrell
- 8 Charles __ of "Nashville" 9 "Queen of Tejano Music"
- 10 "__ Is the New Black" 11 "ABC World __ Tonight with
- David Muir"
- 19 Texter's giggle21 "__ You Hear About the Morgans?"; Hugh Grant movie
- 23 "I Saw __ Kissing Santa Claus" 24 Like beer ready to be served _ bell; sound familiar
- 29 Kicks out 30 Made coins
- 31 Univ. in Dallas 33 "No Country for ___"; Josh Brolin
- movie 34 Tumor ending
- 36 "Boy __ World"
 37 "__ the Dragon"; Bruce Lee film
 38 Actor Christopher __
- 39 Colorado ski resort 41 "__ of Chucky"; Jennifer Tilly film 44 Night to see "Blue Bloods": abbr.
- 45 Male sheep 46 Prefix for system or sphere

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: musically so

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

BTSSABELBUODFRFEEI WOODWINDDHHSSHTWRZ CBECRRECORDERUJYYE ONUALOIVNROHLEGULF REIGECHENOHPOXASOK NBLLLACCORDIONP ETAGOEEIIRKPIIRZXX TEENNISPUVBRNTEOBT YJHPJAVMTJAEYNPQEP OXOPMOIUZTTLOIRNCP WYNUVUBRIZCHCAILRC LLEBWARSTLPCTRAAES COGSPMATOAOIAVHLF ZPNSROPUSLULIFL ZHOAOLHUOGCEMOQIF AOGRBOOANIRACOOAJN J N B B O S N B A S S O O N U N C G HESTEMELODICAZTOLS

ACCORDION DOUBLE BASS OBOE **BANJO** DRUM BASSOON **FIFE** BELL **BRASS GONG BUGLE CELLO**

CLARINET

CORNET

L B U O D) F

T|L|E|J|O|H|N

SMASH

ELSA

BETTYLOU

D E B

GEESE

CLAVICHORD **CLAVIER**

FLUGELHORN GUITAR HARP JAZZ LUTE **LYRE MELODICA**

OCARINA PIANO PICCOLO RECORDER **SAXOPHONE** SITAR SOLO SOUSAPHONE

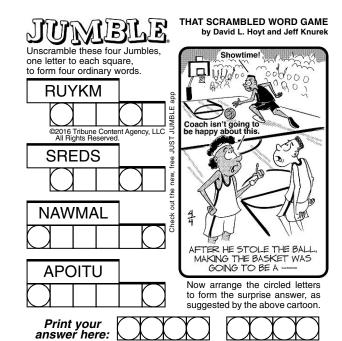
SPINET

TRIO TRUMPET TUBA **VIBRAPHONE** VIOLA VIOLIN WOODWIND **XYLOPHONE**

STRINGS

TRIANGLE

JUMBLE



LAWMAN Answer: After he stole the ball, making the basket was going to be a — SLAM DUNK

ARROW WORDS

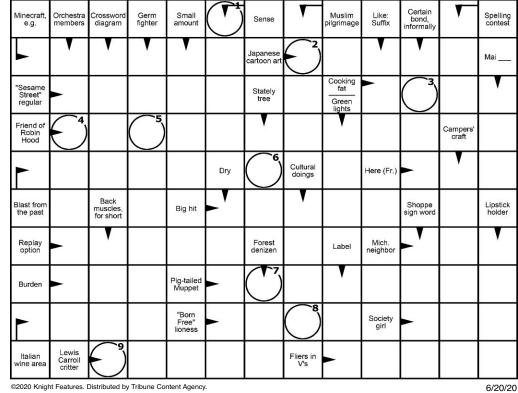
OLDIE

S|L|O|M|O|

SNARK

[F|A|U|L|T|L|E|S|S|

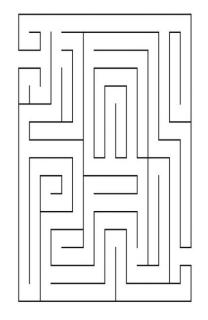
Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

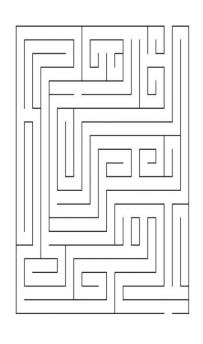


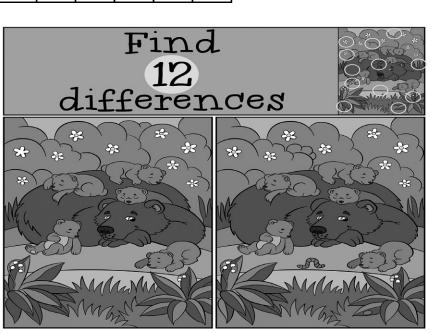
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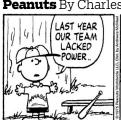
3 5 8 9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES







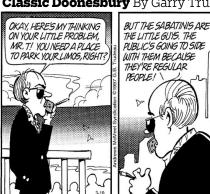


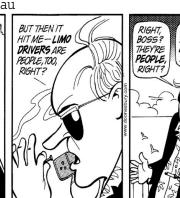






Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau





TECHNICALLY WHERE YOU GO ING WITH THIS







Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



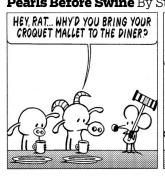


Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker





Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis







Mutts By Patrick McDonnell







Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt







Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley







Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall





Dilbert By Scott Adams







Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin







Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty





Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley





Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos





Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



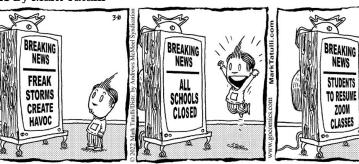




配

23335

Lio By Mark Tatulli



Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price



Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker





Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne





Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne







Curtis By Ray Billingsley









Pickles By Brian Crane









aagh!

I'M EVENGETTING

NOSTALGIC FOR

THE SEVENTIES!

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer







Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters







CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

schedule (for)

literary alter

59 Villainous

ego

Down

60 Atypical

1 Nodded off

as hair

label

Bash

org.

"to

7 Diving bird

9 Audio setup

10 Like farmers'

involving a

horizontal pole

market produce

5

8

3 Milli Vanilli

2 Not as straight,

Common beach

party, briefly

6 Non-pro sports

Expands, with

Across Conventioneer's freebie

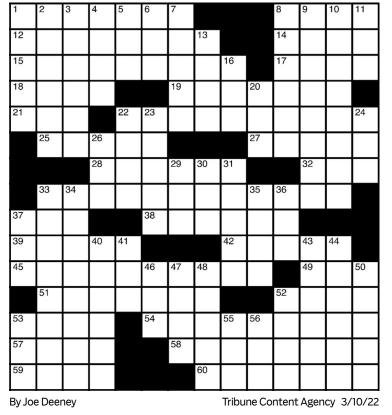
- 8 Slightly Energy snacks whose flavors include Carrot Cake and Cherry Pie
- 14 Complete "Snow White"
- antagonist 17 Shot, perhaps
- Galileo's birthplace
- 19 Words said with a shrug 21 Holiday when
- one might eat hánh chung Relatable female
- character 25 Nearly four octaves. for Freddie
- Mercury Traditional springerle spice
- 28 Shook on it 32 Floors
- 33 Toy sold with cake mix packets
- 37 Ctrl-__-Del 38 Salt's savior Query rendered moot by
- laughter 42 Doesn't hold back
- Title teen in a 2015 musical
- 49 Go bad 51 Level 52 Winter
- festival 53 Huber of
- tennis 54 Neither lose nor gain... and a hint to four long

answers

57 Ratings

- 58 Adjusted one's 11 Kickoff aid 13 Fortuneteller
 - 16 Old-style uh-uh
 - 20 Former flier 22 Like custard 23 Rank and file,
 - e.g. 24 Mario Bros.
 - console 26 "Too Many
 - Rappers' rapper
 - 29 Chow down 30 Manage, with
 - "out' 31 Conduct exhaustive
 - research (into) "I am __-one today!": Bilbo 33 Baggins, a year
 - after his 110th birthday 34 Smear campaign
 - tactic 35 Comet, to some

- 36 Super Bowl 50 MVP __ Miller
- Spend time in a
- cellar, maybe 40 "Psst" follower
- 41 Not just any 43 Splenda alternative
- 44 Sincere, as an oath
- 46 Edmonton's
- prov. 47 Benchmark
- 48 Golfer nicknamed "The
- Slammer" 50 Article of faith
- 52 Apt cooler
- brand 53 Incomplete
- combustion product 55 Fruity cooler
- 56 Fred Savage's "The Wonder
- Years" role, informally



BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

West therefore led a third round of clubs. South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH **♦** Q 8 5 4 2 **♥** K Q 10 6 ♦ A J of trump to his jack. **♣**83 WEST **EAST ♠** A 9 **♠** 10 3 returned yet another club. **♥**J4 **♥**9853 ♦ 9 7 4 **♦** 10 8 6 3 2 ♣A K 10 9 5 2 **♣**74 **SOUTH ♦** K J 7 6 spades. **♥** A 7 2 ♦ K Q 5 ♣QJ6

East

Pass

Opening lead — king of clubs. **High-class defense**

North

3 🍁

The hidding

West

2 🍁

Pass

South

1 NT

A good part of the skill in card play consists of establishing tricks that do not exist naturally. For a prime example, consider this deal where it might seem that declarer can easily make four spades. His only losers appear to be two clubs and the ace of trump. Yet the contract went down one, and South could do nothing about it. East-West's perfect defense was more than South could withstand.

West led the king of clubs, and East signaled with the seven to encourage a club continuation. West continued with the ace of clubs, on which East played the four and South the jack.

It was not difficult for West to conclude from the bidding that East had started with the 7-4 of clubs rather than the Q-7-4. South could not have had a 15- to 17-point opening notrump bid without the queen of clubs.

Declarer ruffed with dummy's queen — he would have gone down immediately had he ruffed with the eight — and led the deuce

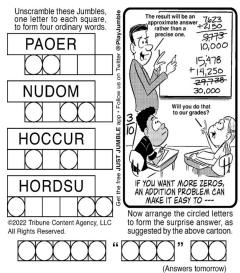
West took the jack with the ace and

South did the best he could by discarding a heart from dummy, but East, fully in tune with his partner, ruffed with the ten of

This well-aimed uppercut put South out of commission. He over-ruffed East's ten with the king, but in the process, West's nine of trump became the setting trick. And so, even though the spade nine had not seemed at all significant at the start of play, it eventually became the card that did South in.

Tomorrow: Test your play. **JUMBLE**

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK



Jumbles: GAUGE

Answer:

TODAY'S SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each 8 6 row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains 5 8 2 every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, 3 visit www.sudoku.org.uk 6 9 ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE 2 9 6 1 8 1 9 7 5 6 2 4 3 3 8 7 4 5 3 8 2 6 1 2 7 3 4 9 8 1 6 5 4 5 6 1 2 3 9 8 9 8 1 6 7 5 4 3 2 3 8 4 5 3 4 8 6 9 2 1 9 5

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

No one told them what to purchase. After some

research, they were there - "BUY" CHOICE

HATCH

MYSTIC

FORBID

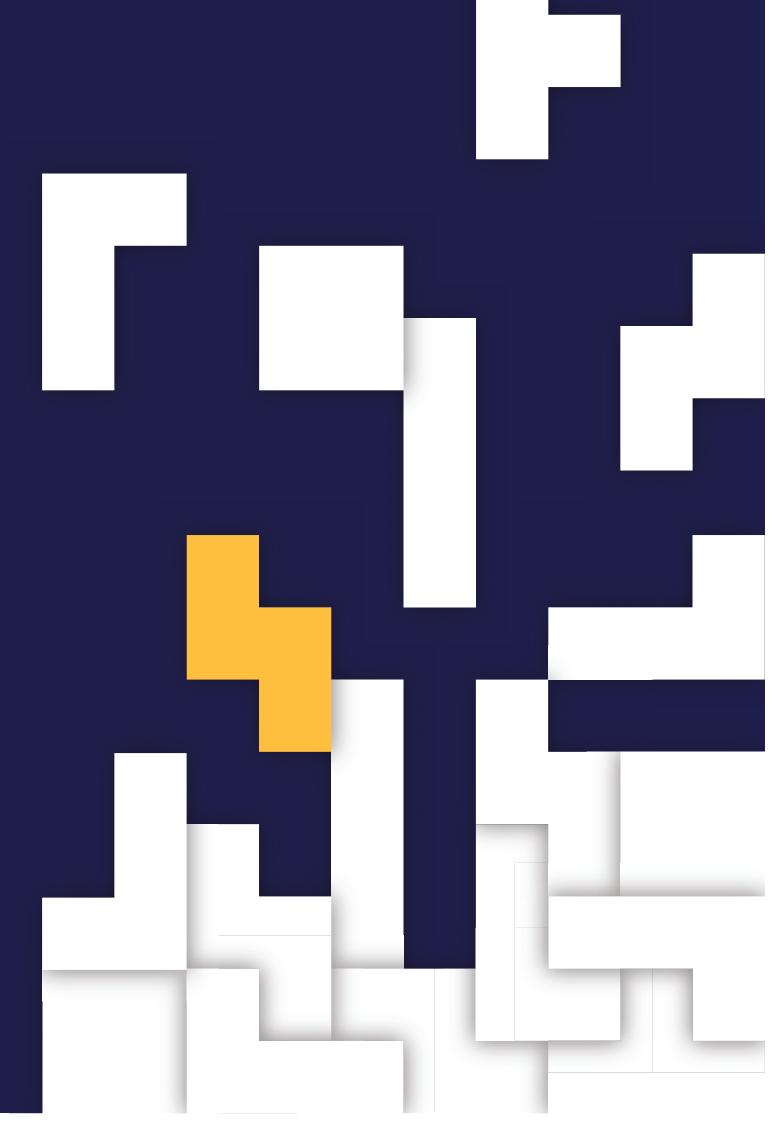






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SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS

BASEBALL

MLB cancels 93 more games, but gap narrows

By Ronald Blum

Associated Press

NEW YORK - Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred canceled 93 more games Wednesday, appearing to close the remaining chance to play a full 162-game schedule and threatening locked out players with loss of salary and service time.

After the sides narrowed many economic differences and became bogged down over management's attempt to gain an international amateur draft, MLB announced two additional series had been canceled through April 13. That raised the total to 184 games wiped out from the 2,430-game regular season, or 7.6%.

"Because of the logistical realities of the calendar, another two series are being removed from the schedule, meaning that opening day is postponed until April 14, Manfred said.

The union's latest counteroffer was hand delivered by chief negotiator Bruce Meyer to MLB's office after he walked three blocks through a wintry mix from union headquarters.

While the gaps slimmed on the luxury tax, pre-arbitration bonus pool and minimum salary, management continued to press for its long-held goal of an international amateur draft. Players have repeatedly rejected the proposal since it

was made on July 28.
"The owners' decision to cancel additional games is completely unnecessary," the union said in a statement. "After making a set of comprehensive proposals to the league earlier this afternoon and being told substantive responses were forthcoming, players have yet to hear back."

MLB said it would not make a new counteroffer to players unless the union first chose one of three options: agreeing to the international draft in exchange for the

Turn to MLB, Page 3



MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred answers questions during an owner's meeting Feb. 10 in Orlando, Florida. JULIO AGUILAR/GETTY

NBA

Nets-Sixers is an instant rivalry, no matter what **Durant says**

By Kristian Winfield New York Daily News

NEW YORK - Kevin Durant says Nets vs. 76ers isn't a rivalry even though his former co-star James Harden forced a trade from Brooklyn to Philly less than a month ago.

Even though Ben Simmons, too, forced a trade from Philly to Brooklyn, refusing to take part in training camp or play in a game for the Sixers this season after his teammates and head coach threw him under the bus following their playoff loss to the Hawks last year.

Even though the Sixers reportedly aren't planning a video tribute for Simmons despite his role in lifting the franchise from the bottom of the conference in his first four

Even though Doc Rivers traded his own son-in-law as part of the deal.

Even though both teams are now led by precisely two super-

Even though Durant and Joel Embiid have a history of trolling each other on the basketball

Even though the Nets and Sixers are already rivals, both geographically and divisionally, and thus will play four regular-season games every year; and even though both share a common goal: winning an NBA championship, which means the road to the trophy has a decent likelihood of going through either Brooklyn or Philly.

No. This can't be a rivalry. That stuff is for the fans. That stuff is for the media. It can't possibly be for the players. At least not this soon. That's Durant's mindset. Or at least what he says publicly, which we know can be the opposite of what is truly felt privately. After all, Steve Nash declared just hours before the Nets traded Harden that Harden wasn't going anywhere, his third time

echoing such a sentiment. Ahead of one of the most

Turn to Nets, Page 2

Up next



76ers 7:30 p.m., TNT

■ Inside: Celtics, Knicks news.

Page 2

BIG EAST TOURNAMENT



The key to UConn's success in the postseason, according to coach Dan Hurley, is sticking to defense and physicality as Adama Sanogo, left, and Tyler Polley applied on Villanova's Caleb Daniels in a game earlier this season. DERIK HAMILTON/AP

TAKING IT ALL-IN

UConn ready for any challenge, or challenger, in conference tourney

By Shreyas Laddha Hartford Courant

The UConn men's basketball team heads into to the Big East Tournament quarterfinals on Thursday night, ready for whichever team is thrown its way.

The Huskies will face the winner of Wednesday's first-round game between No. 6 seed Seton Hall and No. 11 seed Georgetown at 9:30 p.m. at Madison Square Garden in New York

UConn coach Dan Hurley feels good about his team's chances in the tournament.

'Stick to playing your role to the best of your ability and stick to our identity," he said. "We've proven ourselves to be a team that can win a lot and beat good teams. Play your role and stick to our identity and things should be exciting for us this month."

Even UConn graduate guard R.J. Cole doesn't mind the late start.

"I'd rather play basketball at 10 o'clock at night rather than out doing God knows what," If the Huskies want to make a deep run in

March, it could come down to their bench. The bench, which Hurley calls the "X-factor," has had an up-and-down season.

When we get production out of our bench

Turn to UConn, Page 4



Providence head coach Ed Cooley argues a call during the first half against Butler on Feb. 20 in Indianapolis. DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Big East Tournament

At Madison Square Garden. Quarterfinals and semifinals on FS1; championship on Fox.

First round - Wednesday

No. 9 Butler 89, No. 8 Xavier 82 (OT) No. 7 St. John's 92, No. 10 DePaul 73 No. 6 Seton Hall vs. No. 11 Georgetown, late Quarterfinals - Thursday

No. 9 Butler vs. No. 1 Providence, noon

No. 4 Creighton vs. No. 5 Marquette, 2:30 p.m. No. 7 St. John's vs. No. 2 Villanova, 7 p.m. Seton Hall/Georgetown winner vs. No. 3 UConn, 9:30 p.m. Semifinals: Friday, 6:30 and 9 p.m.

Championship: Saturday, 6:30 p.m.

ONLINE

To find out who the Huskies play in tonight's Big East quarterfinal go to courant.com/sports

Why top-seeded Friars still have 'something to prove' in tournament

By Steve Hewitt Boston Herald

Providence, on the surface, should have little reason to feel slighted.

The Friars won the Big East regular season championship for the first time in school history. They haven't dropped out of the Top 25 since late December, with a No. 11 ranking right now. Ed Cooley is a candidate for National Coach of the Year.

Yet heading into this week's Big East tournament as the league's top seed, they still feel overlooked, maybe even a bit disrespected.

"We definitely have something to prove," said senior Nate Watson.

When the Big East's all-conference awards were announced on Monday, the Friars didn't boast any players on the first team — Watson and Jared Bynum made the second team despite being the league champion.

"I'm happy that my guys are getting recognized, but the season Jared Bynum had, Nate Watson, for them to get second team, it hurts," said senior A.J. Reeves. "We feel like they got cheated. Now that's not to say that nobody on the first team isn't deserving of it.

"I definitely feel like we got overlooked." The list of slights went on. Cooley was

surprised Bynum, who won the league's sixth

Turn to Providence, Page 4

Did you know?

One in eight teen drivers now report driving while under the influence of marijuana.

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UP NEXT

UConn MBB: Big East Quarterfinal vs. Georgetown/Seton Hall, Thursday, 9:30 p.m.; Big East Semifinal (if necessary) vs. TBD, Friday, 6:30/9 p.m.; Big East Final (if necessary) vs. TBD, Saturday, 6:30 p.m. **UConn WBB: NCAA** First Round vs. TBD, March 18/19, time TBD; NCAA Second Round (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 20/21, time TBD; NCAA Sweet 16 (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 26, time

Celtics: Pistons, Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Mavericks, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.; at Warriors, Wednesday, 10 p.m.

Knicks: at Grizzlies, Friday, 8 p.m.; at Nets, Sunday, 1 p.m.; Trail Blazers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: at 76ers, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; Knicks, Sunday, 1 p.m.; at Magic, Tuesday, 7 n.m.

UConn hockey: Hockey East Quarterfinal vs. Boston Uni., Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Hockey East Semifinal (if necessary), March 18, 4/7:30 p.m.; Hockey East Final (if necessary) vs. TBD, March 19, 7 p.m.

Bruins: Chicago, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Coyotes, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Chicago, Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.

Rangers: at Blues, Thursday, 8 p.m.; at Stars, Saturday, 8 p.m.; Ducks, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Wolf Pack: at Lehigh Valley, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at W-B/Scranton, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Syracuse, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO BASKETBALL

12 p.m.: SEC Tournament: Florida vs Texas A&M. (Live) SEC 12 p.m.: ACC Tournament: TBA vs Duke. (Live) ESPN 12 p.m.: Big East Tournament: Butler vs Providence. (Live) FSI 12 p.m.: Atlantic 10 Tournament: George Mason vs Fordham. (Live) USA

12:30 p.m.: Big 12
Tournament: TCU vs
Texas. (Live) ESPN2
1 p.m.: AAC Tournament:
East Carolina vs
Cincinnati. (Live) ESPNU
2:30 p.m.: ACC
Tournament: TBA vs
Miami. (Live) ESPN2
2:30 p.m.: Big East
Tournament: Creighton
vs Marquette. (Live)
FSI

3 p.m.: Mountain West Tournament: TBA vs Boise State. (Live) CBSSN

3 p.m.: Big 12 Tournament: TBA vs Kansas. (Live) ESPN **5:30 p.m.:** Mountain West Tournament: UNLV vs Wyoming. (Live)

6 p.m.: SEC Tournament: Mississippi State vs South Carolina. (Live) SEC 6 p.m.: Atlantic

10 Tournament: Massachusetts vs George Washington. (Live) USA 7 p.m.: Big 12 Tournament: Oklahoma vs Baylor. (Live) ESPN

7 p.m.: ACC Tournament: TBA vs Notre Dame. (Live) ESPN2

7 p.m.: AAC Tournament: South Florida vs UCF. (Live) ESPNU **7 p.m.:** Big East

7 p.m.: Big East
Tournament: TBA vs
Villanova. (Live) FS1
7:30 p.m.: Nets at 76ers.
(Live) TNT

9 p.m.: Mountain West Tournament: TBA vs Colorado State. (Live) CBSSN

9:30 p.m.: ACC Tournament: TBA vs North Carolina. (Live) ESPN

9:30 p.m.: Big 12 Tournament: Iowa State vs Texas Tech. (Live) ESPN2

9:30 p.m.: Big East
Tournament: TBA vs
UConn. (Live) FS1
10 p.m.: Warriors at
Nuggets. (Live) TNT
11:30 p.m.: Pac-12
Tournament: TBA vs USC.
(Live) FS1

GOLF
12 p.m.: Players
Championship First
Round. (Live) GOLF
1 a.m.: Honda LPGA
Thailand, Second Round.
(Live) GOLF

HOCKEY 7 p.m.: Blackhawks at Bruins. (Live), NESN **8 p.m.:** Rangers at Blues. (Live), MSG

PATRIOTS

6 ways to free up some salary-cap space

By Nicole Yang
Boston Globe

BOSTON — The Patriots are creating salary-cap room in the week leading up to the new league year, releasing linebacker Kyle Van Noy on Monday.

The move freed up \$4.1 million, which brings New England's cap space to about \$9.5 million. That amount can still increase before free agency begins at 4 p.m. on March 16. Let's take a look at some of the potential avenues, with help from salary-cap expert Miguel Benzan.

Cut N'Keal Harry

If the Patriots cut wide receiver Harry, they will open \$1.2 million against the cap. Those savings will drop to \$433,073 once Harry is replaced in the "top 51."

According to the NFL's collective bargaining agreement, only the 51 players with the biggest cap hits count toward the cap through preseason. So if a player from the top 51 is removed from the 90-man roster, the player with the 52nd-biggest hit takes his place. That player, in this instance, is linebacker Cameron McGrone, whose 2022 cap hit is \$765,038.

If the Patriots trade Harry solely for draft-pick compensation, they will open \$1.87 million in cap space, but that number dips to \$1.1 million once Harry is replaced in the top 51.

Harry's agent publicly requested a trade last July, but Harry stayed put for another year, posting an underwhelming stat line of 12 receptions on 22 targets for 184 yards in 12 games. He contributed as a blocker, earning praise from his coaches and teammates.

Harry, drafted in the first round in 2019, has one year remaining on his rookie contract. The Patriots have until May 2 to decide whether to exercise his fifth-year option, although that seems extremely unlikely.

In this exercise, for the purpose of clarity, the following numbers will reflect the player getting replaced in the top 51 by McGrone.

Cut Nelson Agholor

If the Patriots cut wide receiver Agholor, they will save \$4.12 million against the cap. That transaction would include \$10 million of dead money. If the Patriots trade Agholor in exchange for draft-pick compensation, they will generate \$9.12 million in cap space, with just \$5 million of dead money.

Agholor, who turns 29 in May, signed a two-year, \$26 million contract last March. His 2022 cap figure — \$14.88 million — ranks third on the team, behind outside linebacker Matthew Judon and tight end Hunter Henry.

In 15 games last season, Agholor caught 37 passes on 64 targets for 473 yards and three touchdowns.

Look to trade Wynn

Cutting offensive tackle Isaiah Wynn will do the Patriots no good financially because his \$10.413 million salary is fully guaranteed. If the Patriots trade Wynn for draftpick compensation, they will save \$9.65 million against the cap.

The Patriots picked up Wynn's fifth-year option last May, keeping him in New England through the 2022 season. While he played in 16 games last season, the healthiest year of his career, his performance left much to be desired. Wynn's 2022 cap figure ranks fifth on the team.

Let Anderson go

If the Patriots cut defensive end Henry Anderson, they will save \$1.91 million against the cap. Anderson, who turns 31 in August, signed a two-year deal in March 2020 but played only four games last season before going on injured reserve with a torn pectoral.

Extend some deals

The Patriots can create considerable cap space via contract extensions. Candidates, according to Benzan, include Henry, cornerback Jonathan Jones, punter Jake Bailey, and nose tackle Davon Godchaux. Henry is under contract through 2023, while the other three are scheduled to become unrestricted free agents at the end of the coming season.

With Henry, for example, Benzan suggests giving him a one-year extension through 2024. That would allow the Patriots to prorate his signing bonus over the remaining three years instead of two.

Convert to bonuses

The Patriots could generate cap space by converting the base salary of some players into signing bonuses. By doing so with Judon, Benzan says, the Patriots could save \$6.64 million against the cap.

This would increase Judon's cap hit in 2023 and '24.



Celtics forward Jayson Tatum leads a fast break during the first half against the Hornets on Wednesday in Charlotte, North Carolina. MATT KELLEY/AP

CELTICS 115, HORNETS 101

Tatum stays hot, pours in 44 points

By Mark Murphy Boston Herald

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Jayson Tatum scored 16 of his 44 points in the fourth quarter, and the Boston Celtics defeated the Charlotte Hornets 115-101 on Wednesday night for their fourth straight win.

Tatum, coming off a 54-point performance against the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday, made 16 of 24 shots from the field and 6 of 9 from beyond the 3-point arc. He also made all six free throws.

Tatum was also effective on defense, limiting the red hot Terry Rozier to just 14 points

on 5-of-17 shooting.

Jaylen Brown had 15 points, while Robert
Williams chipped in with 11 points and 11
rebounds and Al Horford added 10 points
and 10 rebounds for the Celtics (40-27), who
were in control most of the game.

Miles Bridges and P.J. Washington each had 17 points to lead the Hornets, who fell to 1-12 on the second night of back-to-back games.

It was the second straight night the Hornets have been victimized by a star player on their home court. They allowed Brooklyn's Kyrie Irving to score 50 points in a 132-121 loss on Tuesday night.

Hornets All-Star point guard LaMelo Ball struggled with his father LaVar Ball looking on from courtside seats, committing six turnovers in the game's first 14 minutes before being benched for the remainder of the second quarter for Isaiah Thomas

Ball later returned and finished with 15 points and eight rebounds.

Tatum received a hug from LaVar Ball as he left the floor.

The Celtics pushed the lead to 87-78 entering the fourth quarter as Tatum began to get hot near the end of the third quarter.

Tatum opened the fourth quarter with a fall-away 3 from the right corner and a long 3 from right wing to quickly help Boston build an 18-point lead. A few minutes he canned another 3 from the other wing, even as his body was shifting to the left.

KNICKS

Letting 'unsung hero' Bullock walk is yet another what-if

By Stefan Bondy New York Daily News

DALLAS — Reggie Bullock was labeled the "unsung hero" of the Knicks' surge to the fourth seed last season, and according to a source,

Tom Thibodeau was keen

on bringing him back.
But as free agency
unfolded, team president
Leon Rose devoted cap
space to two other wings
— Evan Fournier and Alec
Burks — paving the way
for Bullock to sign with
the Mavericks.

Bullock's deal of three years, \$30 million was certainly affordable, but the Knicks also spent on Derrick Rose and Nerlens Noel.

Given the way the Knicks season has unfolded, it's fair to question all their decisions. Not only was Bullock a mainstay in the Knicks lineup last season, he developed a bond with Julius Randle on and off the court. Perhaps his presence might've uplifted Randle during his struggles and bouts of discontent this

season.
Either way, Bullock, who faces the Knicks on Wednesday night in Dallas, was a positive on the court. That has continued with the Mavericks, where he's logging big minutes for a club 15 games over .500.

"Reggie's gonna help any team," Thibodeau said. "That's who he is. He's got a skill in shooting; he spaces the floor for your best players. He's a great defender, and he's got length. He's a long wing. Wherever he's been, he's always helped the team. He's a team-first guy, so he's a good player. He's been a good player for a long time in this league."

Although Bullock's spot in the starting lineup was replaced by Fournier, Thibodeau drew the comparison to Burks, who plays more on the

ball but is appreciated by the coach for his perimeter defense.

"I think those type of guys, they give your team a lot of heart and toughness, and so that's something that you can see it on every team. If you have a wing who's a primary scorer, usually the other wing, there's a defensive slant towards that wing," Thibodeau said. "You could start Reggie. You could bring him off the bench. And that's the great value that we have in Alec.

value that we have in Alec. "Alec's built and wired the same way. You can start Alec. You can bring him off the bench. You can play him at multiple positions. Those guys are invaluable in today's league, guys who can play two, three, four. In Alec's case, he can play the point, as well. So, there's more of a premium now on those

guys than ever before." **Grimes on the mend:**For the briefest of moments, Quentin Grimes felt his kneecap jerk out of place. He even saw the displacement, which, to any athlete or human being, is a scary visual.

So it could've been worse. Nearly two weeks later, the Knicks rookie was still knocking on wood when recounting his good fortune.

"Yeah, I felt it. (My kneecap) was on the side of my knee," Grimes said. "Then it popped back in when I rolled over. So luckily it wasn't too

Grimes, who was diagnosed with a subluxation of his right patella after his fall Feb. 25, is already back to sprinting and shooting. He'll be reevaluated by a doctor in New York over the weekend, and, barring any bad news, the next phase is full contact prac-

He's optimistic about a return "soon," which is encouraging given the grim outlook of many non-contact knee injuries.

Nets

from Page 1

anticipated games of the NBA season — Thursday's matchup between the Nets and 76ers at Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center — Durant said this particular matchup can't be a true rivalry until it stands the test of time. The game comes exactly a month to the day after the Feb. 10 blockbuster deal that altered the mid-season fates of two division rivals.

"If we play like three, four years in the playoffs against each other, yeah," Durant said after Kyrie Irving's 50-point masterclass against the Hornets on Tuesday. "Until we do that, I don't think playing a team one time in the playoffs is a rivalry. Not even two. I'd say three or four times makes you a rivalry, and the

players got to stay on the same teams."

Here's a reminder: Time is a man-made construct. As great a player as Durant is, he doesn't get to define it.

Under Durant's criteria, after all, it couldn't have possibly been an instant rivalry when he left the Oklahoma City Thunder for the same Golden State Warriors team that came back from a 3-1 series deficit to eliminate him in the Western Conference Finals. Thunder fans holding "cupcake" signs surely felt otherwise, as did his former co-star, Russell Westbrook.

Just like it couldn't have been an instant rivalry when LeBron James announced his "Decision" to leave his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers for the Miami Heat in 2010. Those fans didn't need three or four years to start burning James' jersey in the

middle of the streets.

In fact, under Durant's criteria, the only true rivalry in recent memory would be LeBron's Cavaliers vs. Stephen Curry and the Golden State Warriors, because they met in four consecutive NBA Finals. In fact, Durant couldn't possibly have been part of that rivalry — even if he hit dagger shots over James in two consecutive Finals and won Finals MVP in back-to-back years — because, wait, two years isn't enough to make it a rivalry by his own standards. Three or four play-

the criteria.

If this isn't an instant rivalry, why isn't Steve Nash in a hurry to talk to his former point guard? A reporter in Charlotte asked the Nets' coach if he's going to speak to Harden when

off meetings on the same team are

he sees him on Thursday.
"I don't know that I'll see him,"

Nash said. "I never really get a chance to talk to opposing players."

Any way you slice it, Nets vs. 76ers will be a rivalry so long as Harden and Embiid lead the Sixers, so long as Durant and Irving lead the Nets, so long as both remain steadfast in their pursuit of a championship. Both Brooklyn and Philly have championship windows that are wide-open this season and project to remain open as long as each of their stars remain in town.

Until that changes, this is an immediate rivalry. Even though Durant is too cool to admit it.

"It makes for good stories. It makes for good narratives. It makes for good build-up for our league," said Irving. "It's never too personal, but we understand that as competitors, we want to win this game, and going in there with a resolve, with a focus and just ready for whatever."

SCOREBOARD

NBA				
EASTERN CONF	FERE	NCE		
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	40	24	.625	_
Boston	39	27	.591	2
Toronto	34	30	.531	6
Brooklyn	33	33	.500	1
New York	27	38	.415	13 ½
SOUTHEAST	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	44	22	.667	_
Charlotte	32	34	.485	12
Atlanta	31	33	.484	12
Washington	29	34	.460	$13\frac{1}{2}$
Orlando	16	50	.242	28
CENTRAL	w	L	PCT	GB
Milwaukee	41	25	.621	_
Chicago	39	26	.600	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Cleveland	38	27	.585	2 1/2
Indiana	22	45	.328	19 ½
Detroit	18	47	.277	22 ½
WESTERN CON			-	
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	45	22	.672	-
Dallas	40	25	.615	4
New Orleans	27	38	.415	17
San Antonio Houston	25 16	40 49	.385	19 28
Houston	16	49	.246	28
NORTHWEST	w	L	PCT	GB
Utah	40	24	.625	
Utah Denver	40 39	24 26	.625 .600	1 1/2
Utah Denver Minnesota	40 39 37	24 26 29	.625 .600 .561	1 ½ 4
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland	40 39 37 25	24 26 29 39	.625 .600 .561 .391	- 1½ 4 15
Utah Denver Minnesota	40 39 37	24 26 29	.625 .600 .561	1 ½ 4
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland	40 39 37 25	24 26 29 39	.625 .600 .561 .391	1 ½ 4 15 20 ½
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland Oklahoma City PACIFIC Phoenix	40 39 37 25 20 W	24 26 29 39 45 L	.625 .600 .561 .391 .308 PCT	- 1 ½ 4 15 20 ½ GB
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland Oklahoma City PACIFIC Phoenix Golden State	40 39 37 25 20 W 52 44	24 26 29 39 45 L 13 22	.625 .600 .561 .391 .308 PCT .800 .667	- 1½ 4 15 20½ GB
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland Oklahoma City PACIFIC Phoenix Golden State L.A. Clippers	40 39 37 25 20 W 52 44 34	24 26 29 39 45 L 13 22 33	.625 .600 .561 .391 .308 PCT .800 .667 .507	- 1½ 4 15 20½ GB - 8½ 19
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland Oklahoma City PACIFIC Phoenix Golden State L.A. Clippers L.A. Lakers	40 39 37 25 20 W 52 44 34 28	24 26 29 39 45 L 13 22 33 36	.625 .600 .561 .391 .308 PCT .800 .667 .507	- 1 ½ 4 15 20 ½ GB - 8 ½ 19 23 ½
Utah Denver Minnesota Portland Oklahoma City PACIFIC Phoenix Golden State L.A. Clippers	40 39 37 25 20 W 52 44 34	24 26 29 39 45 L 13 22 33	.625 .600 .561 .391 .308 PCT .800 .667 .507	

Chicago at Detroit, late Phoenix at Miami, late Atlanta at Milwaukee, late L.A. Lakers at Houston, late Oklahoma City at Minnesota, late Orlando at New Orleans, late New York at Dallas, late Toronto at San Antonio, late Denver at Sacramento, late Portland at Utah, late Washington at L.A. Clippers, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES Brooklyn at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m. Golden State at Denver, 10p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES

Minnesota at Orlando, 7p.m. Detroit at Boston, 7:30p.m. L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7:30p.m. Charlotte at New Orleans, 8p.m. Cleveland at Miami, 8p.m. Dallas at Houston, 8p.m. New York at Memphis, 8p.m. Utah at San Antonio, 8:30p.m Washington at L.A. Lakers, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Brooklyn 132, Charlotte 121 Cleveland 127, Indiana 124 Phoenix 102, Orlando 99 Memphis 132, New Orleans 111 Milwaukee 142, Oklahoma City 115 Golden State 112, L.A. Clippers 97

CAREER COACHING VICTORIES REGULAR SEASON G

V	VS	GP	PTS
1760	1032	728	.586
1791	1042	749	
2002	1098	904	.548
1640	1155	485	.704
1999	1175	824	.588
1904	1210	694	.636
2024	1221	803	.603
2487	1332	1155	.536
2028	1335	693	.658
2398	1335	1063	.557
	2028 2487 2024 1904 1999 1640 2002 1791 1760	2028 1335 2487 1332 2024 1221 1904 1210 1999 1175 1640 1155 2002 1098 1791 1042	2028 1335 693 2487 1332 1155 2024 1221 803 1904 1210 694 1999 1175 824 1640 1155 485 2002 1098 904 1791 1042 749 1760 1032 728

WIN SHARES	WS	GP	PTS
Kareem	273.4	1560	38387
Abdul-Jabbar			
LeBron James	248.7	1356	36720
Wilt Chamberlain	247.3	1045	31419
Karl Malone	234.6	1476	36928
Michael Jordan	214.0	1072	32292
John Stockton	207.7	1504	19711
Tim Duncan	206.4	1392	26496
Dirk Nowitzki	206.3	1522	31560
Chris Paul	198.0	1148	20844
Kevin Garnett	191.4	1462	26071
Oscar Robertson	189.2	1040	26710
Shaquille O'Neal	181.7	1207	28596
David Robinson	178.7	987	20790
Charles Barkley	177.2	1073	23757
Reggie Miller	174.4	1389	25279
Kobe Bryant	172.7	1346	33643
through Tuesday			

BNP PARIBAS OPEN

At Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, Calif., hardcourt outdoorls WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 128 Kaia Kanepi d. Robin Montgomery,

Petra Martic d. Anna Bondar, 7-5, 6-3. Ekaterina Alexandrova d. Elvina Kalieva, 4-6, 6-2, 7-6(7) Alison Riske d. Catherine McNally, 6-0, 6-3.

Misaki Doi d. Anastasia Potapova, 0-6, 6-4, 6-3. Claire Liu d. Viktoriya Tomova, 7-6(2), 6-4. Ajla Tomljanovic d. Hailey Baptiste, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2. Qinwen Zheng d. Vera Zvonareva,

6-3, 6-2. Anhelina Kalinina d. Clara Burel.

Arantxa Rus vs.

Katie Volynets, late Danka Kovinic vs. Jil Teichmann, late Ana Konjuh vs. Harriet Dart, late Caroline Garcia vs. Davana Yastremska, late Madison Brengle vs. Ann Li, late Anna Kalinskaya vs. Harmony Tan, late Beatriz Haddad Maia, late

ETB	ALL THURSDAY	1
LINE	UNDERDO	G
2	Indian	a
11	Syracus	e
2	at Texas A&N	1
2	at Akroi	n
10	Sacramento State	e
11	La Sall	e
21/2	at Creighton	n
. 5	CS Bakersfield	d
6	Grambling State	e
6	Tuls	a
61/2	Miami (Ohio)
31/2	Montan	a
Pick	UCSI	В
2	South Carolina St	t.
21/2	at George Wash	١.
8	Ball State	
e 3	Marylan	d
9	South Florida	a
2 1	MdEastern Shor	e
2	UC Davi	s
71/2	Iowa State	e
2	Alabama A&N	
11/2	at Hawa	
	2 11 2 2 2 10 111 2½ 5 6 6 6 ½ 3½ Pick 2 2½ 8 8 3 9 2 1 2 7½ 2	2 Indiana 11 Syracus 2 at Texas A&A 2 at Akroi 2 10 Sacramento Stat 11 La Sall 2½ at Creightor 5 Grambling Stat 6 Tuls 6½ Miami (Ohio 3½ Montan. Pick UCSI 2 South Carolina Si 2½ at George Wash 8 Ball Stat 2½ at George Wash 8 Ball Stat 2 Marylan 9 South Florid 2 MdEastern Shor 2 UC Davi 7½ lowa Stat 10 Wa Stat 2 Alabama A&A

THURSDAY UNDERDOG LINE O/U

1 41/2	(222½) Bro	okiyn
31/2	(220½) at D	enver
	THURS	DAY
LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
-210	Chicago	+172
-280	Philadelphia	+225
-385	Arizona	+300
-126	at New Jersey	+105
-210	at Buffalo	+172
-210	at Detroit	+172
-130	Seattle	+108
off	Colorado	off
-166	Columbus	+138
-162	Anaheim	+134
-142	NY Rangers	+118
-120	Tampa Bay	+100
-235	San Jose	+190
dds,	go to	
book	,	
ook.	fanduel.com/	
	3½ LINE -210 -280 -385 -126 -210 -130 off -166 -162 -142 -235 dds, g	

EASTERN CONFERENCE GP W L OT PTS GF GA 39 13 5 83 237 167 56 37 13 6 80 196 162 57 37 16 4 78 213 171 57 34 18 5 73 173 155 57 24 27 6 54 165 212 56 20 31 5 45 147 180 58 18 32 8 44 154 209 56 15 34 7 37 137 212 Tampa Bay Detroit Buffalo METRO. GP W L OT PTS GF GA Carolina 56 39 12 5 83 191 134 N.Y. Rangers 57 36 16 5 77 171 144 Pittsburgh 58 34 15 9 77 188 156

Philadelphia	56	18	28	10	46	141	193
WESTERN (CENTRAL					E PTS	GF	GA
Colorado St. Louis Minnesota Nashville Dallas Winnipeg Chicago Arizona PACIFIC	56 55 56 56 57 58	17	19 20 21 22 29	7 3 4 3 10 8 4	87 71 69 68 67 60 50 38 PTS	230 195 208 176 166 174 152 141 GF	168 155 179 156 162 178 201 203 GA
PACIFIC	ur	vv	-	UI	FIS	ur	UA
Calgary	56	34	15	7	75	197	139
Calgary Los Angeles		34 32		7 7	75 71	197 172	139 162
Los Angeles Vegas	58 58	32 32	19 22	•		172 185	
Los Angeles Vegas Edmonton	58 58	32	19 22	7	71 68 64	172	162
Los Angeles Vegas	58 58	32 32 30	19 22 23	7 4	71 68	172 185	162 169
Los Angeles Vegas Edmonton	58 58 57 59	32 32 30	19 22 23 23	7 4 4	71 68 64	172 185 185	162 169 183
Los Angeles Vegas Edmonton Anaheim	58 58 57 59 57	32 32 30 27	19 22 23 23 23	7 4 4 9	71 68 64 63	172 185 185 175	162 169 183 187

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point

for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Montreal at Vancouver, late

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Arizona at Toronto, 7p.m. Chicago at Boston, 7p.m. Colorado at Carolina, 7p.m Minnesota at Detroit, 7p.m. Philadelphia at Florida, 7p.m. Seattle at Ottawa, 7p.m. Vegas at Buffalo, 7p.m. Winnipeg at New Jersey, 7p.m. Columbus at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30p.m. Anaheim at Nashville, 8p.m. N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis, 8p.m. Tampa Bay at Calgary, 9p.m San Jose at Los Angeles, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS Florida 4, Pittsburgh 3 New Jersey 5, Colorado 3 Philadelphia 2, Vegas 1 Arizona 9, Detroit 2 Toronto 6. Seattle 4 Ottawa 4, St. Louis Minnesota 5, N.Y. Rangers 2 Winnipeg 7, Tampa Bay 4 Nashville 2, Dallas 1 Chicago 8, Anaheim 3 Washington 5, Calgary 4

SEAS	ON	TEAM	SCO	RING	GAM	ES
DATE	MAZIA	INED	•	DDON	ENT C	OF

2-26	Toronto	at Detroit	10-7
3-08	Arizona	at Detroit	9-2
1-15	Florida	Columbus	9-2
12-30	Florida	Tampa Bay	9-3
3-08	Chicago	Anaheim	8-3
3-05	Nashville	at San Jose	8-0
3-05	Arizona	Ottawa	8-5
3-01	Winnipeg	Montreal	8-4
2-25	Chicago	New Jersey	8-5
l-31	Florida	at Columbus	8-4
L-26	Chicago	at Detroit	8-5
L-24	Minnesota	Montreal	8-2
-02	Pittsburgh	San Jose	8-5
12-28	San Jose	Arizona	8-7
12-14	Ottawa	at Florida	8-2
12-03	Winnipeg	New Jersey	8-4
12-01	Toronto	Colorado	8-3
10-14	Columbus	Arizona	8-2
throu	gh Tuesday; ho	ckey-reference	

MAJOR LEAGUE						
EASTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA
N.Y. Red Bulls	2	0	0	6	7	2
D.C. United	2	0	0	6	4	(
Columbus	1	0	1	4	7	3
Orlando City	1	0	1	4	2	(
New England	1	0	1	4		2
Philadelphia	1	0	1	4	3	2
Atlanta	1	1	0	3	3	4
Chicago	0	0	2	2	0	(
New York City FC	0	1	1	1	0	1
Toronto FC	0	1	1	1	2	Ę
Inter Miami CF	0	1	1	1	1	į
CF Montréal	0	2	0	0	1	4
Charlotte FC	0	2	0	0	0	4
Cincinnati	0	2	0	0	0	6
WESTERN	W	L	Т	PT	GF	G/
Austin FC	2	0	0	6	10	1
LA Galaxy	2	0	0	6	2	(
Los Angeles FC	1	0	1	4	4	1
Nashville	1	0	1	4	2	
Real Salt Lake	1	0	1	4	1	(
Colorado	1	1	0	3	3	3
Kansas City	1	1	0	3	2	3
Portland	0	0	2	2	3	3
Minnesota United	0	0	2	2	2	2
		1	1	1	1	- 2
FC Dallas	0					
Houston	Ö	1	1	1	0	
Houston San Jose	0	1	1	1	4	1
Houston	Ö	1	1	1	-	

SATURDAY'S MATCHES CF Montréal at New York City FC, 1p.m. Toronto FC at Columbus, 1:30n.m Los Angeles FC at Miami, 1:30p.m. LA Galaxy at Seattle, 3:30p.m. Vancouver at Houston, 6:30p.m. Chicago at D.C. United, 7:30p.m. Salt Lake at New England, 7:30p.m. Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30p.m. San Jose at Philadelphia, 7:30p.m. Nashville at FC Dallas, 8:30p.m.

Three points for win, one point for tie.

Sporting KC at Colorado, 9p.m. Austin FC at Portland, 10p.m SUNDAY'S MATCHES Charlotte FC at Atlanta, 4:30p.m. Minnesota at N.Y. Red Bulls, 7p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19 SATURDAY, MARCH 19
Miami at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
Philadelphia at New York City FC, 1p.m.
D.C. United at Toronto FC, 3p.m.
Orlando City at LA Galaxy, 3:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Atlanta, 4p.m.
Sporting KC at Chicago, 6p.m.
New England at Charlotte FC, 7p.m.
San Jose at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Portland at FC Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Colorado at Houston, 8:30p.m.
Nashville at Real Salt Lake, 9:30p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE THURSDAY'S MATCHES Norwich vs. Chelsea, 2:30p.m.

Wolverhampton vs. Watford, 2:30p.m. Southampton vs. Newcastle, 2:30p.m. Leeds vs. Aston Villa, 2:45p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES Brighton vs. Liverpool, 7:30a.m. Brentford vs. Burnley, 10a.m. Man United vs. Tottenham, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES Chelsea vs. Newcastle, 10a.m. Everton vs. Wolverhampton, 10a.m. Leeds vs. Norwich, 10a.m. Southampton vs. Watford, 10a.m. West Ham vs. Aston Villa, 10a.m. Arsenal vs. Leicester, 12:30p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WEDNESDAY, SECOND LEG Manchester City 0, Sporting Lisbon 0, Manchester City wins 5-0 aggregate Real Madrid 3. Paris Saint-Germain 1. Real Madrid wins on 3-2 aggregate

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, SECOND LEG Ajax vs. Benfica, 4p.m. MAN. United vs. Atletico Madrid, 4p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 SECOND LEG Juventus vs. Villarreal, 4p.m. Lille vs. Chelsea, 4p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 Bayern Munich 7, RB Salzburg 1 Bayern Munich wins on 8-2 aggregate Liverpool 0, Inter Milan 1, Liverpool wins on 2-1 aggregate

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

WEDNESDAY'S MEN SCORES America East, Semifinal UMBC 80, Hartford 60 Vermont 74, Binghamton 42 Atlantic 10. First Round La Salle 63, Saint Joseph's 56 Rhode Island 79, Duquesne 77 **Atlantic Coast, Second Round** Syracuse 96, Florida St. 57 Boston College 82, Wake Forest 77, OT **Big East. First Round** Butler 89, Xavier 82, OT Big Sky, First Round Sacramento St. 57, Idaho 54 Portland St. 66, Idaho St. 52 E. Washington 78, N. Arizona 75 **Big Ten, First Round** Northwestern 71, Nebraska 69
Conference USA, Second Round Rice 73. Charlotte 61 Louisiana Tech 77, Marshall 67 Mid-Eastern Athletic, Quarterfinal Norfolk St. 74, Delaware St. 66 Mountain-West, First Round Nevada 79, New Mexico 72 Utah St. 83. Air Force 56 Pacific-12, First Round Stanford 71, Arizona St. 70 Oregon 86, Oregon St. 72 **Southeastern, First Round** Missouri 72, Mississippi 60 Southland. First Round Houston Baptist 74, Incarnate Word 64 Southwestern Athletic, Quarterfinal Texas Southern 54, Jackson St. 50

NCAA TOURNEY AUTOMATIC BIDS Bryant: Northeast Chattanooga: Southern Delaware: Colonial Athletic Gonzaga: West Coast Georgia State: Sun Belt Jacksonville State: Atlantic Sun* Longwood: Big South Loyola Chicago: Missouri Valley Murray State: Ohio Valley
South Dakota State: Summit League Wright State: Horizon League Patriot League, Wednesday America East, Saturday Atlantic Coast, Saturday Big 12, Saturday Big East, Saturday Big Sky, Saturday Big West, Saturday Conference USA, Saturday Metro Atlantic Athletic, Saturday Mid-American, Saturday Mid-Eastern Athletic, Saturday Mountain West, Saturday Pac-12, Saturday Southland, Saturday Southwest Athletic, Saturday Western Athletic, Saturday American Athletic, Sunday Atlantic 10. Sunday Big Ten, Sunday Ivy League, Sunday Southeastern, Sunday

*-Bellarmine ineligible for bid

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN SCORES TOURNAMENT American Athletic, Semifinal UCF 61, SMU 28 Big West, Quarterfinal Hawaii 48, CS Bakersfield 47 UC Riverside 46, UC Santa Barbara 42 Conference USA, Second Rou Rice 80, Marshall 62 Old Dominion 65, UTSA 45 UAB 74, W. Kentucky 62 Southern Miss. 78, FIU 60 Metro Atlantic Athletic, Quarterfina Quinnipiac 63, St. Peter's 42 Mid American, Quarterfinal Toledo 80, Ohio 67 Ball State 60, N. Illinois 54 Buffalo 63, W. Michigan 49 Akron 81, Bowling Green 67 Mid-Eastern Athletic, Quarterfinal Howard 87, Delaware St. 51 Norfolk St. 58, NC Central 52 Southwestern Athletic, Quarterfinal Grambling St. 62, Alabama A&M 54 Western Athletic, Second Round
Tex Rio Grande 73, Abilene Christian 70
Sam Houston St. 73, Lamar 69

WOMEN NCAA AUTOMATIC BIDS Belmont: Ohio Valley Gonzaga: West Coast Mercer: Southern NC State: Atlantic Coast UMass: Atlantic 10 lowa: Big Ten Longwood: Big South
South Dakota: Summit League Texas-Arlington: Sun Belt UConn: Big East Mountain West, Wednesday American Athletic, Thursday American East, Friday Big Sky, Friday Atlantic Sun, Saturday Big West, Saturday Conference USA, Saturday Ivy League, Saturday Metro Atlantic Athletic, Saturday Mid-American, Saturday Mid-Eastern Athletic, Saturday Southwest Athletic, Saturday Western Athletic, Saturday Atlantic 10, Sunday Big 12, Sunday Colonial Athletic, Sunday Missouri Valley, Sunday Northeast, Sunday Patriot League, Sunday Southland, Sunday

GOLF

PGA TOUR: THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP Site: Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Course: TPC Sawgrass (Players Stadium). Yardage: 7, 256. Par: 72.

HOLE NO.17, PAR 3, 137 YARDS

The wet count: how many balls in the						
water at 1	7?					
2021- 66	2020 no event	2019 - 45				
2018 - 54	2017 - 69	2016 - 36				
2015 - 45	2014 - 28	2013 - 44				
2012 - 39	2011 - 40	2010 - 29				
2009 - 32	2008 - 64	2007 - 93				
2006 - 37	2005 - 68	2004 - 30				
(Note: the	tournament was	s cancelle				
after 18 ho	les in 2020) • n	natour co				

PGA TOUR STATISTICAL LEADERS SCORING AVERAGE RD AVG TOT

16

69.181 1,073

Collin Morikawa

Collili Worlkawa	10	09.101	1,073
Cameron Smith	22	69.432	1,487
Russell Henley	40	69.600	2,741
Patrick Cantlay	20	69.612	1,355
Scottie Scheffler	38	69.629	2,609
Matt Fitzpatrick	20	69.713	1,388
Justin Thomas	24	69.713	1.623
Mackenzie Hughes	32	69.799	2,211
Billy Horschel	28	69.829	1,928
Matthias Schwab	26	69.868	1,811
Daniel Berger	14	69.882	961
Joaquin Niemann	30	69.890	2,064
Jon Rahm	26	69.968	1,789
Talor Gooch	49	69.970	3,365
Cameron Young	38	69.983	2,633
Sungjae Im	40	69.990	
			2,748
Louis Oosthuizen	17	69.991	1,166
Denny McCarthy	46	70.004	3,190
Hideki Matsuyama	40	70.020	2,748
Tom Hoge	52	70.030	3,595
Adam Scott	28	70.055	1,941
Keith Mitchell	42	70.073	2,908
Maverick McNealy	42	70.099	2,910
Seamus Power	42	70.122	2,886
Xander Schauffele	24	70.177	1,645
Luke List	40	70.182	2,776
Marc Leishman	36	70.202	2,479
Tommy Fleetwood	14	70.236	982
Viktor Hovland	26	70.254	1,782
Webb Simpson	18	70.276	1,230
Tyrrell Hatton	14	70.318	972
Mito Pereira	43	70.325	2,993
Mark Hubbard	28	70.345	1,951
Sam Burns	30	70.346	2.068
Chris Kirk	40	70.346	2,776
Aaron Wise	34	70.384	2,363
Corey Conners	31	70.387	2,148
Lanto Griffin	42	70.392	2,933
Will Zalatoris	32	70.392	2,333
	33	70.405	2,227
Jhonattan Vegas			
Matt Kuchar	29	70.441	2,003
Martin Laird	28	70.452	1,955
Charles Howell III	30	70.471	2,091
Gary Woodland	27	70.478	1,889
Russell Knox	45	70.494	3,128
Chris. Bezuidenhout		70.500	2,520
Satoshi Kodaira	18	70.523	1,261



Chief players `union negotiator Bruce Meyer, left, and general counsel Ian Penny, right, leave the players `union negotiator Bruce Meyer, left, and general counsel Ian Penny, right, leave the players `union negotiator Bruce Meyer, left, and general counsel Ian Penny, right, leave the players `union negotiator Bruce Meyer, left, and general counsel Ian Penny, right, leave the players of the pMLB's office in New York after making their latest counteroffer Wednesday. RONALD BLUM/AP

MLB

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elimination of direct amateur draft pick compensation for qualified free agents; keeping compensation in exchange for MLB dropping the international draft proposal; or dropping compensation while giving players until Nov. 15 to accept an international draft starting in 2024 while giving MLB the right to re-open the labor contract after the 2024 season if players fail to accept the draft.

On the 98th day of baseball's first work stoppage since 1995, the last alternative would leave open the possibility of another labor conflict in less than three years between parties that regard each other with

Players rejected all three options and instead proposed to drop compensation for this year, have the sides agree to a draft by Nov. 15 or then revert to compensation for the 2022-23 offseason.

"In a last-ditch effort to preserve a 162-game season, this week we have made good-faith proposals that address the specific concerns voiced by the MLBPA and would have allowed the players to return to the field immediately," Manfred said. "The clubs went to extraordinary lengths to meet the substantial demands of the MLBPA. On the key economic issues that have posed stumbling blocks, the clubs proposed ways to bridge gaps to preserve a full schedule. Regrettably, after our second late-night bargaining session in a week, we remain without a deal.'

Opening day was to have been March 31 but has been wiped out by baseball's ninth work stoppage, its first since 1995.

If April 14 games are canceled and players do not receive credit for service time in the eventual settlement, free-agent eligibility would be pushed back for many players, including Shohei Ohtani from 2023 to 2024, Pete Alonso from 2024 to 2025, Jake Cronenworth from 2025 to 2026 and Jonathan India from 2026 to 2027.

Players dropped their threshold for the luxury tax to \$232 million this year, with increases to \$235 million in 2023, \$240 million in 2024 and \$245 million in 2025 and \$250 million in 2026.

Players had been at \$238 million to \$263 million in their previous proposal of a week earlier. They were within 2.5% of management's starting figure of \$230 million in Tuesday's proposal. Players were within 3.2% of MLB's \$242 million for 2026.

Management's desire for an additional fourth tax threshold at \$60 million above the first threshold is among the contentious points remaining.

Players dropped to \$65 million from \$80 million for their proposed bonus pool for pre-arbitration-eligible players, a day after MLB raised its offer from \$30 million to \$40 million. The union is asking for \$5 million annual increases, while management's offer is the same for all five years.

The union dropped its proposed minimum salary to \$710,000 from \$725,000, a figure rising to \$780,000 by 2026. Management is at \$700,000 this year, rising to \$770,000. The union's proposals on the tax threshold and bonus pool were first reported by The Athletic.

In the proposal for an international draft, teams would rotate picking in different quadrants of the first round over a four-year period, A slotting system would be installed similar to what the union agreed to starting in 2012 for the amateur draft covering residents of the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada.

The international draft proposal includes hard slots that could not be negotiated by individuals. MLB estimates \$17 million in additional spending for the drafted international players above the \$166.3 million spent by the 30 teams in 2021, plus an additional \$6 million on non-drafted players. The draft would start in 2024.

International players would lose the right to pick which team they sign with. The age for the draft would be in the year a player

IN BRIEF

Syracuse's Buddy Boeheim draws 1-game ban for punch in ACC win

News services

The Atlantic Coast Conference suspended Syracuse guard Buddy Boeheim for one game after he punched Florida State's Wyatt Wilkes in the stomach during the first half of the Orange's 96-57 victory in the second round of the league tournament Wednesday in New York.

Boeheim will miss Thursday's quarterfinal game against top-seeded Duke.

"In the heat of today's game, after some shoving in the lane, I swung my arm while turning to go back up court. It was wrong to act out in frustration," Boeheim said in a statement posted on Syracuse basketball's Twitter account. "I apologized to Wyatt Wilkes multiple times in the handshake line. He said not to worry about it, but I know it was wrong."

Boeheim wasn't called for a foul after

he swung his right hand into Wilkes' midsection as he turned to run back to the defensive end, following a made basket by

"I saw the play, the kid pushed him twice," said Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, who is Buddy's father. "I think it was inadvertent. It wasn't much of a punch."

Buddy Boeheim leads the ACC in scoring at 19.3 points per game.

Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton praised Buddy Boeheim's character in his postgame news conference.

"I don't want anything to take away from how well they played and what type of fine young man he is," Hamilton said.

"The game is physical. We expect guys to go out and bang and be aggressive.

"If something inadvertently happens sometimes we want to categorize it in one way or another.

"I've lost my composure sometimes.

"I've made some mistakes." Boeheim finished the ninth-seeded

Orange's victory over the eighth-seeded Seminoles with 14 points, three assists and two rebounds.

■ Big Ten player of the year Johnny Davis said he expects to play in the conference tournament when the second-seeded Badgers open play in the quarterfinals Friday. Davis sprained his right ankle early in the second half of the 12th-ranked Badgers' loss to Nebraska in the teams' regular-season finale Sunday. With the loss, Wisconsin settled for a share of the regular-season Big Ten title.

NBA: LeBron James was back in the Lakers' lineup for Wednesday night's game against the Rockets in Houston. James, 37, missed Monday's game against the Spurs because of "significant" soreness in his left knee. That came two days after he scored 56 points in a victory against the Warriors. James missed five games because of his knee from late January until early February

Soccer: Karim Benzema scored a hat trick in less than 20 minutes in the second half as host Real Madrid came from behind to beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 and advance 3-2 on aggregate to the quarterfinals of the Champions League. In other second-leg action, Manchester City and visitor Sporting Lisbon played to a scoreless draw but City easily advanced 5-0 on aggregate.



UConn's Andre Jackson (44) steals the ball from Xavier guard Colby Jones during the first half Feb. 11 in Cincinnati. JEFF DEAN/AP

UConn

from Page 1

and when our bench gives us a lift from Jordan [Hawkins] to Tyler [Polley] to [Akok] Akok to Jalen [Gaffney] here, if they can give us a boost in March, that's the X-factor in terms of us making a big push," he said.

The Huskies may be doing it without Hawkins and Polley on Thursday. Hawkins remains in concussion protocol and is unlikely to play after suffering a head injury in the Huskies' 64-62 loss to Creighton on March 2. He was then sidelined for UConn's 75-68 win over DePaul this past Saturday. Polley missed practice on Tuesday with a stomach bug and is questionable.

But as Hurley said, the Huskies need to stick to their identity, which is built around defense and physicality. It could spell an early exit if it wanes.

"The games we have failed in we haven't played the elite defense it takes to advance in March," he said. "If we don't play elite defense, the way this team is built, we won't advance in either tournament."

Here's everything you need to know if UConn faces Seton Hill or Georgetown in the Big East quarterfinals:

The basics

Big East Tournament quarterfinals Site: Madison Square Garden, New York Time: 9:30 p.m.

Last meeting vs. Seton Hall: UConn won, 70-65, on Feb. 16 at Gampel Pavilion, UConn leads the series, 46-21. Last meeting vs. Georgetown: UConn won, 86-77, on Feb. 27 at Capital One Arena in Washington D.C. Georgetown leads the series, 36-34

TV: FS1 (Tim Brando, Bill Raftery) Live Stream: Fox Sports app Radio: UConn Sports Network (Mike Crispino, Wayne Norman). XM-201.

Sirius-138. SXM app-964. 97.9-ESPN Hartford. WILI-1400-AM (Willimantic). WATR-1320-AM (Waterbury), WAVZ-1300-AM (New Haven). WGCH-1490-AM (Greenwich).

No. 20 UConn (22-8, 13-6) probable starters, sixth man

R.J. Cole, G, 6-1, GS; Isaiah Whaley, F, 6-9, GS; Adama Sanogo, F, 6-9, So.; Tyrese Martin, G/F, 6-6, Sr.; Andre Jackson, G/F, 6-6, So.; Tyler Polley, F, 6-9, Sr.

Seton Hall (20-9, 11-8) probable starters, sixth man

Tray Jackson, F, 6-9, Jr.; Ike Obiagu, C, 7-2, GS.; Jared Rhoden, G, 6-6, Sr.; Myles Cale, G, 6-6, Gr.; Kadary Richmond, G, 6-6, So. Alexis Yetna, F, 6-8, Gr.;

Georgetown (6-24, 0-19 Big East) probable starters, sixth man

Aminu Mohammed, G, 6-5, Fr.; Dante Harris, G, 6-0, So.; Kaiden Rice, G/F, 6-7, GS; Donald Carey, G, 6-5, GS; Malcolm Wilson, C, 7-0, Jr.; Collin Holloway, F, 6-6,

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies' focus should be on playing inside-out through Sanogo and make sure to dictate the pace on the offensive end. When UConn has an aggressive Sanogo, it opens up the offense for the rest of the team. UConn's defense: The Huskies need to play with aggressiveness on the backboard. Georgetown is tied for No.

16 in offensive rebounds per game in

Division I with 11 and Seton Hall is tied

for No. 20 with 10.9.

Seton Hall's offense: Rhoden and Aiken are the keys to the Pirates' offense, averaging 16.2 points and 14.2 points, respectively.

Georgetown's offense: The Hovas' offense is balanced with four scorers averaging double-digit points (Mohammed, Carey, Harris and Rice). Georgetown is tied for No. 59 in pace with 70.5, so the Huskies must get back in transition on defense.

Seton Hall's defense: Seton Hall ranks No. 25 in opponent effective field goal percentage with 45.8%, according to KenPom, so UConn must take quality

Georgetown's defense: The Hoyas' defense ranks No. 333 in opponent effective field with 53.9%, according to KenPom, so UConn should have no issues getting quality shots.

UConn's key: The Huskies must play with aggression on both ends of the floor and let the defense lead to fast break opportunities.

Player to watch: Cole. He shot 1-for-9 with three points to end the regular season against DePaul, so it's crucial that he bounces back.

About Seton Hall's coach: Kevin Willard has coached at Seton Hall for 11 vears. During his tenure, he has coached 15 All-Big East selections.

About Georgetown's coach: Patrick Ewing has coached at Georgetown for five years after spending 15 years as an NBA assistant with a number of teams. Seton Hall mascot: The mascot is a Pirate, chosen in 1931.

Georgetown mascot: The bulldog was chosen in 1962.

Seton Hall famous alumni: Former NBA player Bob Davies.

Georgetown famous alumni: Former NBA Hall of Famer Alonzo Mourning.

Shreyas Laddha can be reached at sladdha@courant.com or at shre98 on Twitter.

Providence

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man award, didn't also win most improved player. Justin Minaya, the team's defensive stopper, didn't win Defensive Player of the Year.

"It adds fuel to me," Watson said. "I have to go to this Big East tournament and prove that I'm a firstteam all-conference player."

Add all that to the outside narratives. The Friars only played 17 league games because of a COVID-19 outbreak in January that ultimately canceled three games, so their critics say they're undeserving of the title. The metrics continue to say they're lucky, a product of their 14-2 record in games decided by single digits.

"At the beginning of the season, they picked us as seventh and we finished No. 1, and people are still looking down on us," Watson said. "Every team we play,

we're always the underdogs it feels like."

Added Reeves: "We're a small school, everybody overlooks us. And sometimes when you overlook us, it's bad."

PC is clearly out to show its magical season has been no fluke. Its path to a Big East tournament title tips off Thursday at noon at Madison Square Garden, where the Friars will await the winner of Wednesday's first round game between Xavier and Butler, teams they needed a combined four overtimes to beat in the last month.

Speaking of overlooked, PC has no right to look past any opponent this weekend.

"Either one, they're going to bring their A game," Reeves said. "We have to bring ours. I don't really see any advantages with any teams in the tournament this year. Everybody just has to

When the Friars take the

court on Thursday, it'll come after a long break after last playing against Villanova last Tuesday. Cooley said the nine-day lavoff was beneficial, allowing his team to work on fundamentals and get fully healthy.

There's no greater beneficiary to the latter than Al Durham, a key starter who missed last week's loss to Villanova with a sports hernia injury that has nagged him for several weeks. Cooley said he was a limited participant at Monday's practice, but should be a full go for Thursday's quarterfinal matchup.

"It's definitely going to be game to game," Cooley said of Durham's status. "Hopefully

we can play three games." PC is in a unique situation in which it's a lock to make the NCAA Tournament next week whether or not it wins the Big East tourney. Both ESPN and CBS project the Friars as a No. 4 seed in the NCAAs as of Wednesday.

But make no mistake they want to cut down the nets at Madison Square Garden come Saturday night. And doing so will only improve their seed heading into Selection Sunday.

'We're not really looking forward to next week," Reeves said. "We're looking towards now. We have to take care of this business that we have. Three games in three days is really hard, especially in the Big East this year. Everybody's really, really good, but we can definitely do it. It's just going to take a team effort and everybody locked in."

And if they do, they'll even further cement their legacy and further prove this magical season has been no accident.

"Our whole year, we talked about leaving your mark as a group," Cooley said. "What do you want to be known as? And this group has answered the bell for the most part every single time."

injured for more than 60 years

STATE COLLEGES

Hartford men fall to **UMBC** in America East semifinals

Associated Press

After playing No. 2 UMBC close in the first half, the Hartford men's basketball team faded in the second, losing the America East Conference semifinal 80-60 on Wednesday night at Balti-

The fourth-seeded Hawks, tied with the Retrievers 33-33 at intermission, were outscored by 20 points in the second

Jared Kimbrough led Hartford (12-20, 9-10) with 16 points and nine rebounds. Traci Carter had 15 points and five rebounds and Austin Williams 12 points and eight rebounds.

Szymon Wojcik led five UMBC scorers in double figures with 19 points and added nine rebounds.

The Retrievers will play at top seed Vermont, a 74-42 winner over Binghamton in Wednesday's other semifinal, on Saturday at 11 a.m. for the America East's NCAA berth.

Women's basketball

Quinnipiac 63, St. Peter's 42: At Atlantic City, N.J., Mackenzie DeWees scored a game-high 15 points and reached the 1,000-point mark for her career as the No. 2 Bobcats rolled to the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference quarterfinal win.

After the No. 7 Peacocks took an 18-10 lead after one, Quinnipiac stormed back with a 16-5 second and took control from there.

The Bobcats advance to a Friday semifinal meeting against either No. 3 Manhattan or No. 11 Cani-

Fairfield 69, Iona 56: Rachel Hakes scored 26 points and Lou Lopez-Senechal added 18 to lead the top-seeded Lady Stags to a MAAC quarterfinal

The Lady Stags play the winner of Thursday's semifinal between No. 4 Niagara and No. 5 Siena in the semifinals.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Butler holds on for 89-82 win over Xavier in OT

Associated Press

Simas Lukosius hit a jumper on the first possession in overtime to give ninth-seeded Butler a lead it would not relinquish en route to an 89-82 win over eighth-seeded Xavier in the first round of the Big East Conference tournament on Wednesday at Madison Square Garden.

He followed with a 3-pointer for a 73-68 and after four free throws pulled the Shockers within one. Lukosius hit a three point and went on to score 12 points in the overtime.

Capping a second half that featured eight lead changes and four ties, Lukosius made a pair of free throws to even the score at 68 with four seconds remaining in regulation and send the game to overtime.

Chuck Harris scored a season-high 29 points, tying his career high, to lead the Bulldogs. Lukosius added 27 points and seven rebounds. Bryce Nze had 15 points and 15 rebounds for Butler (14-18).

Jack Nunge had 26 points and nine rebounds for the Musketeers (18-13). Paul Scruggs added 15 points, including a go-ahead layup with eight seconds to go in overtime, and six assists. Colby Jones had 14 points and six rebounds.

ACC Tournament

Boston College 82. Wake Forest 77 (OT): At New York, DeMarr Langford scored 19 points, Quinten Post added 17 and 13th-seeded Boston College upset fifth-seeded Wake Forest in overtime in the second round of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament at the Barclay's Center.

The Eagles (7-14) rallied from a 10-point deficit with six minutes left in regulation before scoring the first six points in overtime and going on to win.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL LATE TUESDAY Brawl delays, mars NEC title game; Bryant nabs NCAA bid

Associated Press

SMITHFIELD, R.I. -Peter Kiss had 34 points and a season-high five steals, and top-seeded Bryant cruised to 70-43 win over Wagner on Tuesday night for the first Northeast Conference Tournament championship in program history.

But the game was marred by a fight in the stands among fans.

With 4 minutes, 37 seconds to play and the Bulldogs leading 68-32, play stopped for nearly 30 minutes. A small section of seats mostly occupied by Wagner fans sat next to Bryant's student's section, and the contentious atmosphere led to a scuffle.

None of the players or coaches made it into the stands, though Wagner's Will Martinez attempted to and was ejected from the game. Several players had to be restrained.

Bryant (22-9) set the Division I program record for wins this season and clinched its first NCAA Tournament berth since beginning the transition from Division II in 2008. The NEC also includes Central Connecticut State and Sacred Heart.

Kiss, the nation's leading scorer at 24.7 points per game, made 13 of 23 from the field and 4 of 5 from 3-point range. and also had six rebounds and three assists.



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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

No Indian Wells, Miami for Djokovic



Novak Djokovic said that he will not be able to compete at the hard-court tennis tournaments in Indian Wells, California, or Miami because he's unvaccinated and can't travel to the United States. The 20-time Grand Slam champion from Serbia tweeted Wednesday that the Centers for Disease Control

"confirmed the regulations won't be changing so I won't be able to play in the U.S." Djokovic, who recently dropped to No. 2 in the ATP rankings, has played in only one tournament so far in 2022 because he hasn't received any shots to protect against COVID-19. He was deported from Australia in January and wasn't allowed to try to defend his title at Melbourne Park. Rafael Nadal won for his 21st major trophy, breaking a tie with Djokovic and Roger Federer for the most claimed by a man. Djokovic's name was put in the draw for the BNP Paribas Open, even though his status was up in the air because the U.S. has been requiring foreign visitors to be vaccinated to enter the country. In addition, the tournament had previously announced that everyone on-site at Indian Wells would need to be fully vaccinated.

Woods headliner at Hall induction



The candidates are introduced one at a time, along with a list of their accomplishments to support why they belong in the World Golf Hall of Fame. Except for Tiger Woods. There was nothing to say that hasn't been seen or at least talked about. There was no debate. His election was unanimous. Woods.

46, was the headliner Wednesday in an induction class that fittingly included Tim Finchem, the retired PGA Tour commissioner who parlayed the powerful effect of Woods with astronomical increases in prize money and a tour that became the destination for players around the world. Also being inducted were three-time U.S. Women's Open champ Susie Maxwell Berning and the late Marion Hollins, the first woman to develop golf courses and a former U.S. Women's Amateur champion and Curtis Cup captain. The ceremony was moved from the World Golf Village to the new PGA Tour headquarters in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Woods has a record-tying 82 wins on the PGA Tour, along with 15 majors, three behind the gold standard set by Jack Nicklaus.

Now a Knight, Eichel back in Buffalo



Whatever butterflies Jack Eichel felt during his first visit back to Buffalo gradually dissipated as the Golden Knights' practice came to a close Wednesday. Completing the final team drill at one end of the ice, Eichel skated to the empty end and began snapping pucks into the open net from various

angles when a smile emerged on his face. The former Sabres captain, wearing a white practice jersey with a Knights logo on the chest, finally began feeling at ease. "I told Patty, I scored a couple from here," Eichel said, referring to teammate Nolan Patrick in pointing to spots in an arena where he scored 87 of his 139 goals during six seasons with the Sabres. "Yeah, I've had a lot of great memories in this building." Another one will come Thursday night, when Eichel plays his first game in Buffalo since getting traded to the Knights on Nov. 4 in a deal that ended an eight-month stalemate with the Sabres over how to treat a neck injury. It will also mark the 25-year-old Eichel's first game in Buffalo since a loss to the Flyers on Feb. 28 of last year, a week before the injury.

Former world No. 1 Dustin Johnson practices Wednesday at TPC Sawgrass ahead of The Players Championship. LYNNE SLADKY/AP

GOLF

'Happy ... where I'm at'

Saudi League stance clear, Johnson ready for Players

By Doug Fgeruson **Associated Press**

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. -Dustin Johnson's commentary on his shots was more revealing than where they landed.

He reached the 18th hole Wednesday on the TPC Sawgrass, water all the way down the left side of one of the more daunting closing holes in golf, and opted for a 3-wood with a strong breeze coming off the left. It was perfect for his cut.

That's not cutting," Johnson said with a laugh, the words not long out of his mouth when he could see the ball splash in the distance.

He asked for the 7-wood, the club he thought about hitting in the first place, and tried a draw. This one started down the right side with a fade, finishing in deep rough near the cart path.

Yeah, that's more like it," Johnson deadpanned. Another smile and he was on his way.

The Players Championship is a mystery to him.

He enjoys the Stadium Course and feels it suits his game. Trouble is, he has only one top-10 finish in his 12 appearances, a peculiar record for a player who has spent more time at No. 1 than any other since Tiger Woods.

Whether that changes this week is

irrelevant.

Johnson looked more at peace than he has in months, even as he endures the longest stretch of his career without a win. His last victory was the

Saudi International 13 months ago. His last PGA Tour title was the Masters in November 2020.

The simple explanation — "Not a very simple answer," he said — is he hasn't played well. Digging deeper, he mentioned the relentless testing of drivers last year that kept him from working on the whole of his game.

"Kind of a frustrating year," he said. There was more in play, which Johnson conceded only when pressed.

While he never indicated which way he was leaning on the Saudi-funded rival league, the amount of money was such that he had to listen. Johnson would have been the prime catch for the new league Greg Norman is trying to assemble.

Two days after he missed the cut at Riviera, a course Johnson has played better than anyone in the last decade, he released a short statement that his loyalty lies with the PGA Tour. It was a big blow to the Saudi league, and it might have freed Johnson of a major

"Any time you have something that's not what you're doing it's going to distract you," Johnson said. "But for me, I don't think it was too much of a distraction. Maybe it was, I don't know. I can't really answer that."

A "maybe" from Johnson typically is a "yes."

"I'm happy playing golf right where I'm at," Johnson said. "I just wanted to have my complete focus on golf and playing on the PGA Tour. That was the main reason for the statement."

Johnson is approaching an important stretch of the year, starting with Augusta National a month away and including his marriage to longtime partner Paulina Gretzky two weeks after the Masters.

At stake this week is a chance to show his game his turning in the right direction. The Players Championship is the next thing to a major without being one, now offering a \$20 million purse and \$3.6 million for the winner.

The field is the deepest in golf, even missing four players from the world's top 50, a list that includes Phil Mickelson, who has been on a self-imposed hiatus since his published remarks in which he disparaged the Saudis, the rival league and the PGA Tour.

Like at other tournaments this year, spectators are back at capacity, most of them congregating along the Stadium Course's dynamic finishing stretch of the reachable par-5 16th (water on the right), the par-3 17th with its island green (water everywhere) and the 18th (water on the left).

Justin Thomas is the defending champion and will try to become the first player to win this event in consecutive years since it began in 1974.

The winner gets a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour and three-year exemptions to the Masters, U.S. Open and British Open.

The tournament keeps growing in stature, and even younger players like Collin Morikawa have picked up on

"You just see more guys slowly taking their deep breaths because they understand what The Players means,' said Morikawa, who already has two majors and a World Golf Championship. "I think I've understood over the past couple years what it would mean to me hopefully to hoist a trophy one

Colts trade Wentz to Commanders

Associated Press

The Colts are moving on from Carson Wentz after one season, sending him to a team he's familiar with from his days in the NFC East.

The Colts agreed to trade Wentz to the Commanders, according to reports Wednesdat. The deal cannot be finalized until the start of the new league year next week.

The Commanders are getting the 47th pick in the draft along with Wentz and sending the Colts Nos. 42 and 73

this year and a 2023 conditional third-rounder that can become a second based on Wentz's playing time.

Wentz, 29, has three years remaining on his contract with salary cap hits of \$28.3, \$26.2 and \$27.2 million consecutively. The 2016 second overall pick of the Eagles spent just the 2021 season with the Colts, with the team going 9-8 and missing the playoffs.

This will be the sixth

consecutive year the Colts will have a different open-



ing day starter, though Jacoby Brissett took over when Andrew Luck missed the entire season in 2017 and again in 2019 when Luck abruptly announced his retirement in August.

While coach Frank Reich urged the Colts to acquire his former Eagles pupil 13 months ago and continued to support Wentz, GM Chris Ballard was less committed. In January, after the Colts lost their final two games to miss the playoffs, he said he wanted to have a quarterback who could play 10 to 12 years, while acknowledging it doesn't always work that way. Last week, he told reporters at the NFL scouting

combine he needed a quarterback he believed could be a long-term solution — before quickly explaining that didn't mean he didn't believe in Wentz.

Ron Rivera evidently does believe in Wentz. The move to acquire a former face of a division rival is the once-storied franchise's latest attempt to shore up a quarterback situation that has been in flux for decades.

The Commanders have started 12 different QBs since acquiring veteran Alex Smith from the Chiefs in 2018. That includes Smith, who broke his right leg 10 games into his

Adding Wentz likely relegates previous starter Taylor Heinicke to a competition with Rivera favorite Kyle Allen for the backup job.

In six NFL seasons, Wentz has thrown for 3,008 yards, 140 touchdownss and 57 interceptions.

The North Dakota State product has been dogged by injuries most of his career.

Flores wants suit heard in court: Brian Flores wants the NFL to reject the Dolphins' request for an arbitration hearing regarding his class-action lawsuit against the team and the league alleging racist hiring practices.

Flores' lawyer sent a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on Wednesday, urging him to turn down the Dolphins' request and have the case settled in court.

"Arbitration is not transparent," attorney Douglas H. Wigdor wrote in his letter. "Indeed, arbitration is by its very nature a secretive process that takes place behind closed doors and outside of the public eye. The lack of transparency in arbitration only serves to continue the status quo — which in this case, is one that you have conceded must be fairly evaluated and potentially overhauled. That cannot happen in arbitration. In addition to being secret and confidential, it is a well-accepted fact that arbitration presents a barrier to justice for victims of discrimination and other misconduct."

Flores, hired as a senior defensive assistant for the Steelers last month, filed his lawsuit against the NFL, Dolphins, Giants and Broncos after his dismissal by the Dolphins. As head coach, Flores led the Dolphins to consecutive winning seasons before he was fired in January.

Flores' lawsuit alleges the league has discriminated against him and other Black coaches for racial reasons, denying them positions as head coaches, offensive and defensive coordinators and quarterbacks coaches, as well as general managers. Flores also claims the Dolphins offered him \$100,000 per loss during his first season with the team in 2019 in an effort to receive a top draft pick.

The Dolphins requested arbitration last month.

Extra points: The Cardinals released LB Jordan Hicks, freeing up salary-cap space. Hicks, 29, had 116 tackles and a career-best four sacks last season and also seven tackles for loss, five pass breakups and two fumble recoveries. ... The Panthers re-signed K Zane Gonzalez to a two-year contract. Gonzalez, 26, joined the team last season in Week 2 and made 20 of 22 on field goal attempts, including 17 straight before sustaining a season-ending injury.... Alejandro Villanueva retired after seven seasons, which followed his time serving in the U.S. Army. Villanueva, 33, reached two Pro Bowls as a longtime left tackle for the Steelers, protecting Ben Roethlisberger's blind side for six years. He played for the Ravens last season.

FRIDAY

A; A;

WEATHER



Partly sunny and milder. West wind 53° mild. around 5 mph.

Partly sunny and 28°

 $q_{ij} = q_{ij}$ the afternoon

Rainy and windy. The rain could turn to snow in and end in the evening.

SATURDAY

A; A; A; ні**сн 46°** Partly sunny and windy.

21°

SUNDAY

37

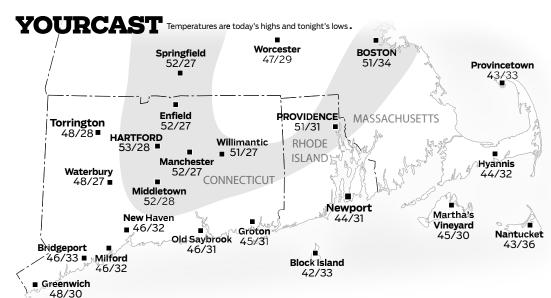
LOW

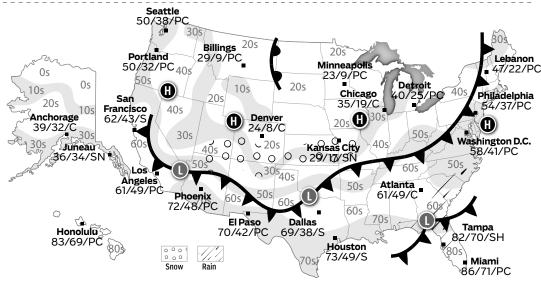
26°

MONDAY OK OK OK

Partly sunny and **53**° milder. 36°







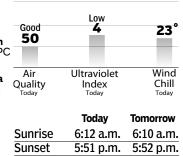
OUTLOOK

A low-pressure system passing south of Connecticut on Wednesday produced light to moderate snow accumulations across the state. Some of the unfinalized totals included: 4.1 inches in Torrington, 4.0 inches in Southington, 3.8 inches in Canaan, Norfolk, Plainville, and West Hartford, 3.0 inches in Simsbury and Ansonia, and 2.6 inches in Newtown. There will be a weak cold front crossing the state on Thursday bringing partly sunny skies and much milder temperatures as highs range from the mid-40s to the mid-50s. It will remain partly sunny and milder than normal Friday.

AT.MANAC

THUMAN						
Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal				
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.34	0.13				
Month to date	0.81	1.12				
Total this year	7.12	7.53				
Snowfall In Inches						
Yesterday (by 1 p.m.)	0.4	0.4				
Total this year	26.7	45.0				
Precipitation, temperat Windsor Locks	:					

Air Quality Forecast For Today



Sunrise	6:12 a.m.	6:10 a.m.				
Sunset	5:51 p.m.	5:52 p.m.				
Moonrise	10:23 a.m.	11:08 a.m.				
Moonset	1:22 a.m.	2:19 a.m.				
Moon Phase						

	Moon Phase									
First Mar 10	Full Mar 18	Last Mar 25	New Apr 1							

Stockholm

Sydney

Tel Aviv

Tokyo

39 28 PC

73 63 PC

62 52 SH

59 39 PC

30-day Precipitation 1.0	O-day Precipitation History In Inches							
0.8			\square					
0.6								
0.4			\square					
0.2								
0.0	2/20	2/27	3/6					
Tides	High	Low	Temp.					
N.L. State Pier	3:05 a.m.	9:52 a.m.	42°					
	3:36 p.m.	9:51 p.m.						
Saybrook Jetty	4:16 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	. 40°					
	4:47 p.m.	10:44 p.m.						
Connecticut River	6:59 a.m.	1:31 a.m.						
at Portland	7:30 p.m.	2:31 p.m.						
Madison	4:19 a.m.	10:44 a.m.	. 39°					
	4:58 p.m.	10:56 p.m.						
New Haven	4:39 a.m.	11:08 a.m.	. 39°					
	5:18 p.m.	11:20 p.m.						
Stamford	4:43 a.m.	11:22 a.m.	. 40°					
	5:22 p.m.	11:34 p.m.						

River Stage at Hartford: 11.01 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Doaung	L.I. 500HQ W	L.I. 500110 E	b. 1. 300 110
Weather	PCloudy	PCloudy	PCloudy
Wind	NW/SW, 5	NW/SW, 5	NW/SW, 5
Seas	1 ft.	2-3 ft.	3-4 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Wednesday	34 at 11:04 a.m	28 at 2:16 a.m
Normal for date	45	26
Record for date	81 in 2016	4 in 2007
A year ago	60	31
Range this year	71	-2

AROUND THE WORLD Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

54 35 PC Nashville

Burlington	41 22 PC	Bismarck	32 2 PC	New Orleans	72 58 PC	Tucson	73 42 S	Buenos Aires	75
Caribou	38 11 PC	Boise	40 19 S	New York	50 39 S	WORLD		Cairo	67
Concord	49 24 S	Buffalo	41 24 PC	Okla. City	56 27 PC	WORLD		Cancun	86
Montpelier	40 21 PC	Charleston	65 51 R	Omaha	30 16 C	Amsterdam	61 39 S	Dubai	99
Mt. Wash.	18 7 PC	Cincinnati	51 33 PC	Orlando	85 67 T	Athens	45 34 SF	Dublin	50
Portland	48 26 PC	Cleveland	38 23 PC	Pittsburgh	47 28 C	Bangkok	97 82 PC	Edinburgh	53
Woods Hole	47 31 PC	Indianapolis	46 28 C	Raleigh	53 42 C	Barbados	83 73 PC	Helsinki	37
Woods Hole	31.0	Jacksonville	73 60 T	St. Louis	46 27 C	Beijing	68 41 S	Hong Kong	75
NATION		Las Vegas	58 36 PC	Salt Lake City	34 18 PC	Beirut	59 51 SH	Istanbul	39
Albany	43 24 PC	Miami Beach	82 74 PC	San Antonio	75 51 S	Berlin	50 27 PC	Jerusalem	52
Albuquerque	57 32 C	Milwaukee	32 14 C	San Diego	64 50 C	Bermuda	74 68 PC	Johannesburg	75
Atlantic City	50 31 PC	KEY: S Sunny,	C Cloudy, P	C Partly Cloudy	, R Rain, S H	Showers, SN	Snow, SF S	now Flurries, T	T-s

75 55 PC 67 48 PC **Mexico City** 81 64 PC 43 25 PC Milan 55 37 C Vancouver 46 37 PC 86 74 PC 99 79 PC Montreal 39 27 S Warsaw 36 21 S Moscow 25 9 S 50 34 PC 84 70 SH Nassau 53 44 C 88 63 PC New Delhi WESTERN 37 27 PC Paris 61 45 S CONNECTICUT 75 64 PC 39 30 SN Prague 50 25 Rio de Janeiro 97 73 C UNIVERSITY 52 43 SH 61 36 SH Rome Weather Center 75 63 T -storms Singapore 91 75 T

86 73 SH

61 50 R

57 48 C

59 45 SH

Last **Heating Degree Days** Season Normal Season For July 1 - March 9 4249 4614 4382 30-day Temperature History 80 70 HIGHS

10 LOWS 2/13	2/20 2	/27 3/6
Atmosphere Barometer	High 30.20 at 12 a.m.	Low 29.93 at 5 p.m.
Dew point	30° at 2 p.m.	16° at 1 a.m.

TUESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

47 18 PC

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments Division V-First Round

WINDSOR LOCKS 51, EAST HAMPTON 46

WINDSOR LOCKS (10-10): Javdon Buckle 10-5-26, Jaheime Thomas 3-4-11, Chris Vega 1-0-2, Kyle Hinckley 1-5-7, Aidan Walker 1-0-3, Austin Smith 0-2-2. Totals 17-16-51 EAST HAMPTON (12-9): Etham Palma 1-0-2, Brady Lynch 4-3-11, Drew DiStefano 3-0-7, Jye Lynch 5-2-12, Jack Blakey 2-0-4, Nate Ireland 5-0-10. Totals 20-5-46.

WL EH

4 18 7 22 - 51 4 10 20 12 - 46

Baltimore

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments

Class **L**—Quarterfinals Lower Bracket **SIMSBURY 36, FARMINGTON 29**

FARMINGTON (15-9): Daria Fournier 1-1-3, Mackenzie Campbell 1-1-3, Brooke Jones 2-2-6, Suzy Scheer 1-0-3, Abby Finn 1-0-2, Sarah Bertolette 3-0-6, Avery Anderson 2-2-6. Totals 11-6-29. SIMSBURY (21-3): Lauren Sabia 8-1-21, Katie Perlitz

0-0-0, Olivia Jarvis 1-2-4, Amanda Gallagher 1-0-3, Faye Kaplinski 4-0-8. Totals 14-3-36.

0 6 13 10 - 29 10 12 6 8 - 36

Note: Simsbury advanced to the state semifinal game for the first time in program history. Class \mathbf{M} — Quarterfinals Lower Bracket

EAST HAMPTON 57, SEYMOUR 44 SEYMOUR (21-5): Mackenzie Sirowich 7-3-20, Jillian Keough 2-0-4, Jackie Okula 2-0-4, Jayla Ortiz 2-0-4, Skylar Barton 4-2-10, Devin Cronin 1-0-2. Totals 18-5-44. EAST HAMPTON (23-2): Amber Murphy 1-0-2, Olivia DeMartino 0-4-4, Liana Salamone 6-15-27, Delanev Russell 2-4-8, Jackie Russell 3-5-14, Jordan Murphy 0-1-1, Katie Ireland 0-1-1. Totals 12-30-57.

10 15 12 7 - 44 S EH

Class **S**—Quarterfinals Upper Bracket

BOLTON 44. SOMERS 27

BOLTON (19-6): Emma Diehl 6-2-15, Niya Islam 5-6-19, Isabel Kenney 0-0-0, Julia Zimmerman 1-0-2, Makenna Graves 3-2-8. Totals 15-10-44. SOMERS (17-7): Sydney Cassidy 4-0-9, Deidre Dalessio 3-0-6, Eliana Wood 2-2-7, Erin Donohue 1-0-3, Halle Watt

12 8 17 7 - 44 8 4 2 13 - 27

Note: Graves had 9 rebounds, 3 steals and Diehl had 9

BOYS HOCKEY

1-0-2. Totals 11-2-27.

CIAC State Tournaments Division I—First Round
Upper Bracket
NEW CANAAN 5, ST. JOSEPH 3

HAMDEN 8, IMMACULATE 5 NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 3. NOTRE DAME-FAIRFIELD 1

WEDNESDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments Division II—Second Round Upper Bracket

NO. 16 AMISTAD (14-7) AT NO. 1 BRISTOL CENTRAL (24-0), PPD. TO TODAY NO. 9 STAPLES (16-5) AT NO. 8 WATERFORD (16-5), PPD.

NO. 13 NEWTOWN (15-6) AT NO. 4 WILTON (17-3), PPD. TO TODAY NO. 12 ST. JOSEPH (15-6) AT NO. 5 HOLY CROSS (16-4), PPD. TO TODAY

NO. 18 GREENWICH (13-8) AT NO. 2 NORTHWEST CATHOLIC (22-2), PPD. TO TODAY NO. 23 STAMFORD (11-10) AT NO. 7 CROSBY (15-5), PPD.

TO TODAY NO. 14 WESTHILL (15-6) AT NO. 3 CONARD (20-3), PPD.

NO. 11 MIDDLETOWN (16-7) AT NO. 6 PRINCE TECH (15-5), Division IV-Second Round Upper Bracket

NO. 16 VALLEY REGIONAL (11-10) AT NO. 1 CROMWELL (19-1), PPD, TO TODAY NO. 9 CANTON (14-6) AT NO. 8 WAMOGO (15-5), PPD. TO NO. 13 CHENEY TECH (13-8) AT NO. 4 GRANBY (16-4). PPD. NO. 12 ELLINGTON (13-8) AT NO. 5 WINDHAM TECH (16-4),

60 38 PC San Juan

NO. 18 ROCKVILLE (10-11) AT NO. 2 ABBOTT TECH (17-3), PPD. TO TODAY NO. 10 MORGAN (14-7) AT NO. 7 SOMERS (15-5), PPD. TO NO. 14 KILLINGLY (12-9) AT NO. 3 BRANFORD (17-3), PPD.

NO. 11 BETHEL (14-7) AT NO. 6 BLOOMFIELD (16-4), PPD.

BOYS SWIMMING

Diving Championships CLASS L AT SHEEHAN HS, PPD. TO TODAY CLASS LL AT MIDDLETOWN HS, PPD. TO MONDAY

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL

SCHEDULE

ALL GAMES AT 6:30 P.M. UNLESS NOTED

BOYS BASKETBALL

CIAC State Tournaments Division I-Second Round

Upper **Bracket:** No. 16 Wilbur Cross (12-8) at No. 1 Naugatuck (20-0); No. 9 Farmington (15-5) at No. 8 East Catholic (15-5); No. 13 West Haven (14-7) vs. No. 4 Fairfield Prep (18-2) at Fairfield Warde HS, 5:30 p.m.; No. 21 Hamden (8-13) at No. 5 NFA (16-3) Lower **Bracket:** No. 15 Danbury (13-8) at No. 2 Notre

Dame-West Haven (19-1); No. 10 Notre Dame-Fairfield (14-6) at No. 7 Fairfield Warde (16-4), 7:30 p.m.; No. 14 Hillhouse (14-7) at No. 3 Ridgefield (18-2); No. 11 Manchester (15-6) at No. 6 Windsor (16-3) Division II—Second Round Upper **Bracket:** No. 16 Amistad (14-7) at No. 1 Bristol

Central (24-0); No. 9 Staples (16-5) at No. 8 Waterford (16-5); No. 13 Newtown (15-6) at No. 4 Wilton (17-3); No. 12 St. Joseph (15-6) at No. 5 Holy Cross (16-4) Lower **Bracket:** No. 18 Greenwich (13-8) at No. 2 Northwest Catholic (22-2); No. 23 Stamford (11-10) at No. 7 Crosby (15-5); No. 14 Westhill (15-6) at No. 3 Conard (20-3), 6 p.m.; No. 11 Middletown (16-7) at No. 6 Prince Tech (15-5)

Division III—Second Round Upper **Bracket:** No. 16 Ansonia (13-8) at No. 1 Kolbe Cathedral (17-2); No. 24 Norwalk (9-12) at No. 8 Berlin (16-5); No. 13 Guilford (13-8) at No. 4 Kennedy (17-3); No.

12 Ledyard (13-8) at No. 5 RHAM (17-3) Lower **Bracket:** No. 15 Platt (13-8) at No. 2 St. Bernard (17-3); No. 10 WCA (14-7) at No. 7 Bassick (16-5); No. 14

East Lyme (13-8) at No. 3 Hand (17-3); No. 11 New London (13-7) at No. 6 Stonington (16-3) Division **IV**—Second Round Upper **Bracket**: No. 16 Valley Regional (11-10) at No. 1 Cromwell (19-1); No. 9 Canton (14-6) at No. 8 Wamogo (15-5); No. 13 Cheney Tech (13-8) at No. 4 Granby (16-4);

No. 12 Ellington (13-8) at No. 5 Windham Tech (16-4) Lower **Bracket:** No. 18 Rockville (10-11) at No. 2 Abbott Tech (17-3), 6 p.m.; No. 10 Morgan (14-7) at No. 7 Somers (15-5); No. 14 Killingly (12-9) at No. 3 Branford (17-3); No. 11 Bethel (14-7) at No. 6 Bloomfield (16-4) Division V—Second Round

Upper **Bracket**: No. 16 Portland (12-9) at No. 1 Terryville (19-1); No. 9 Stafford (14-7) at No. 8 Windham (15-6); No. 20 Windsor Locks (10-10) at No. 4 Hale-Ray (15-5); No. 12 Suffield (13-8) at No. 5 Whitney Tech (16-5), 6 p.m. Lower **Bracket:** No. 15 University (13-8) at No. 2 SMSA (16-4), 6 p.m.; No. 10 Achievement First (14-7) at No. 7 Old Saybrook (15-6); No. 14 Litchfield (13-8) at No. 3 Weaver (15-5); No. 11 Northwestern (14-7) at No. 6 Capital Prep

BOYS HOCKEY

Division III-Quarterfinals

Upper Bracket: No. 9 Conard (10-9-2) vs. No. 1 E.O. Smith/ Tolland (17-3-1) at Trinity, Hartford, 7 p.m.; No. 5 New Milford (14-6-1) vs. No. 4 BBD (13-8) at Wonderland of Ice,

bridgeport, 6:30 p.m.
Lower **Bracket:** No. 10 Staples (9-12) vs. No. 2 Newington (18-3) at Northford Ice Pavilion, 7 p.m.; No. 11 Enfield co-op (9-12) vs. No. 3 JBWA (17-4) at Newington Ice Arena,

BOYS SWIMMING

Diving Championships Class S at Sheehan HS, 4 p.m. Class M at Middletown HS, 5:30 p.m. Class L at Sheehan HS, 6:30 p.m

TUESDAY'S LATE COLLEGE RESULTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

MAAC Tourney-First Round (Atlantic City, N.J.) **FAIRFIELD 72. CANISIUS 50** QUINNIPIAC 77, MARIST 52

WEDNESDAY'S COLLEGE

Kinaston

Lisbon

London

Madrid

42 21 PC

84 72 SH Budapest

RESULTS MEN'S BASKETBALL

America East Tourney-Semifinal **UMBC 80. HARTFORD 60** MAAC Tourney—Quarterfinal (Atlantic City, N.J.)
FAIRFIELD VS. ST. PETER'S, LATE

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MAAC **Tourney**—Quarterfinals (Atlantic City, N.J.) **QUINNIPIAC 63, ST. PETER'S 42**

FAIRFIELD 69, IONA 56

BASEBALL EASTERN AT PURCHASE, PPD.

SOFTBALL

MANHATTAN AT CENTRAL (2), CANCELED MEN'S LACROSSE

WESLEYAN 25, MARITIME 5 EASTERN 16, ST. JOSEPH 15 TRINITY AT SALVE REGINA. PPD.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE UCONN 16, MANHATTAN 6

WESLEYAN AT BABSON, PPD QUINNIPIAC AT BRYANT, LATE FAIRFIELD AT LAFAYETTE, LATE

MEN'S TENNIS

WESLEYAN VS. CARNEGIE MELLON, LATE

WOMEN'S TENNIS

WESLEYAN VS. CARNEGIE MELLON, LATE

THURSDAY'S COLLEGE **SCHEDULE**

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Quinnipiac vs. Syracuse, 6p.m.

Big East **Tourney**—Quarterfinal (MSG) Georgetown/Seton Hall vs. UConn, 9:30p.m. MARC **Tourney**—Quarterfinal (Atlantic City, N.J.) Quinnipiac vs. Siena, 5p.m. WOMEN'S HOCKEY NCAA Div. I **Tourney**—First Round (Columbus, Ohio)

BASEBALL

LIU at Yale, 3:30p.m.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE Trinity at Skidmore, 6:30p.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Wesleyan vs. Haverford, (Orlando, Fla.), 11:30a.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Big East Tourney—First Round (MSG)
BUTLER 89, XAVIER 82 (OT) DEPAUL VS. ST. JOHN'S, LATE GEORGETOWN VS. SETON HALL, LATE

THURSDAY'S SCHEDULE Big East **Tourney**—Quarterfinals (MSG) Butler vs. Providence, noon

Marquette vs. Creighton, 2:30p.m. DePaul/St. John's vs. Villanova, 7p.m. Georgetown/Seton Hall vs. UConn, 9:30p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS Hockey East Tourney—First Round NEW HAMPSHIRE AT BOSTON COLLEGE, LATE VERMONT AT PROVIDENCE, LATE

SATURDAY'S SCHEDULE Hockey East **Tourney**—Quarterfinals Boston University at UConn, 4:30p.m. TBD at UMass Lowell, 4:30p.m. TBD at UMass, 7p.m. TBD at Northeastern, 7:30p.m.

MAINE AT MERRIMACK, LATE

Cassidy addresses late blown leads

By Steve Conroy Boston Herald

BOSTON - There was a time when closing out games was the Bruins'

Zdeno Chara and his Andean condor wing span shut down comeback attempts very well here for over a decade. And even after Chara departed last season, Boston managed to hang on to leads better than they have over the

past week and a half. Whether it's simply an anomalous rut in the road or not, the trend is concerning. In four straight games, the Bruins have allowed goals while protecting late leads. In three (Vegas, Columbus and Los Angeles), the opposition's goalie was pulled for the extra skater. They took late penalties in both Anaheim and Columbus, creating a 6-on-4

against the Blue Jackets. In Vegas, the failure didn't matter much. They had a three-goal lead when Jonathan Marchessault scored, but David Pastrnak got it right back with

an empty-netter anyway. But in the others, Boston lost something tangible. Trevor Zegras' late goal in Anaheim hung a regulation loss on the B's. They lost the second point to the Kings when Andreas Athanasiou scored in overtime. And even though they beat the Jackets in a shootout, the late goal against cost them a regulation win, a standings tiebreaker.

More costly than any lost ground in the standings (they have a 14-point cushion over the closest non-playoff team) is the possible psychological effect of repeatedly squandering late leads can have on a team.

After a day off from practice Tuesday, the issue was addressed in the team meeting before Wednes-

day's practice. "For me, it's what is the common theme here?," said coach Bruce Cassidy. "Is it puck management? It has been in a few of them. We haven't been as good in the circle in those situations to start. Maybe get first touch and get the clear and put us out of harm's way right away. But at the end of the day, it's part of playing hockey, closing out

"And I don't want to say it's in our heads, but we're aware of it. We have to be aware of it. Come crunch time, you're going to be in a lot of those situations."

RANGERS LATE TUESDAY

Fiala gets 2 goals to help Wild halt slide, beat Rangers 5-2

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — With the Minnesota Wild mired in a severe slump, players might have preferred a mental break.

They asked for an intense practice instead of a day off. The result was a muchneeded win. Kevin Fiala scored twice

in the second period to help the Wild pull away, and Marcus Foligno added a goal and two assists in a 5-2 victory over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

We just wanted to come in and work. We've been in the league a long time. These little ups and downs that you go through, you need to do that," said Foligno, the alternate captain who was in the conversation with coach Dean Evason on Monday about the desire for a crisp workout.

Ryan Hartman and Joel Eriksson Ek also scored for the Wild.

FLAVOR

Living



The prime New York strip at Café Aura in Manchester. **JUSTINE KOESTER-HOBEN/RYAN MARKETING**

RESTAURANT REVIEW

WELCOMINGAURA

A menu with grace and flair at Geno Auriemma's Café Aura in Manchester

By Rand Richards Cooper Special To The Courant

he coach went table to table, charming his guests. Geno Auriemma had been eager to open a Hartford-area restaurant, and in 2019, when the iconic Cavey's in Manchester closed, he seized the opportunity.

"The Cavagnaro family ran Cavey's for 86 years!" the UConn women's basketball coach marveled when he stopped at our table. "We wanted a place that would live up to that tradition." Thus was Café Aura born.

A complete overhaul by renowned Manhattan designer Libby Langdon remade the restaurant's interior in tones of earth, stone and sand that lend a sleekly elegant look. Gray leather chairs and espresso-brown tables. Blackframed photos of the Italian countryside. A white marble bar. Chandeliers. The aura at Aura is stylish and mellow.

Big wine racks signal an evening to delight the oenophile. Geno's cellar might not contain Cavey's 10,000 bottles, but it's impressive in its own right. The basic list boasts 100 affordable wines, from Connecticut to Campania, along with a pair of branded house wines, a Puglia Rosso and a Pinot Grigio. Augmenting that is "Geno's List," a premium array of Parker/Suckling/Spectator-approved heavy hitters — Burgundies, Napa Cabs and diverse Italian varietals — priced up to \$500. The coach loves the grape.

Chef Erminio Conte, imported from Italy via New York City, turns out Mediterranean-inflected pasta-steak-seafood fare graced with flair and — at its best — packed with flavor. From the get-go, the menu showed game. A crab appetizer offered abundant crabmeat

mingled with avocado and spicy mayonnaise, molded into a compact cylinder and decorated with tobiko caviar. Just as rewarding was tuna tartare sprinkled with sesame seeds, arrayed atop avocado and surrounded by a ring of freshly made potato chips. Another go-to starter bathed meatballs in sweet, tomatoey Sunday gravy. Arancini were piping hot, with a cheesy, creamy, molten interior.

Italian cuisine emphasizes freshness, and the kitchen at Café Aura brings a lot of it. An arugula salad — topped with sliced fennel, halved grape tomatoes and sections of orange, then drizzled with a citrusy fig vinaigrette and strewn with almonds — went well with a lemony Hooker IPA. Pasta dishes included a bowl of light, fluffy gnocchi bathed in a piquant arugula pesto: Enjoyed together with a tricolor beet salad fortified with goat cheese, it made

for an attractive pairing both of tastes and colors.

Main courses provided ups and downs. We loved the tuna entrée, thick chunks of seared ahi propped in a Stonehenge-like circle, around a mound of brilliant green seaweed salad, in turn ringed with yuzu oil. Looked great, tasted even better. A steak special was terrific — a filet mignon pounded semi-thin, stuffed with asiago and spinach and wrapped in a thick armor of speck, surrounded by baby carrots and parnsips. Veal marsala topped generous cutlets with ample wild mushrooms in an opulently creamy, slightly thickened marsala sauce.

There were some far less satisfying dishes. Small chunks of octopus in an appetizer, while grilled to a nice smoky char, were lost in a mass of celeriac

Turn to Aura, Page 2

Potato dumplings are comforting alternative to mashed potatoes

By Kristina Vänni TheKitchn.com

When we're talking about potato dumplings, there will be many opinions on the "correct" way to make them. For German potato dumplings, there are a few schools of thought. There are some who swear that a pinch of ground nutmeg is the best seasoning, while others think that dried marjoram is the way to go.

Personally, I prefer the savory flavor from dried marjoram as well as some finely chopped (or grated) onion and celery for added flavor and interest.

For additional texture, these

dumplings can either be filled with a toasted bread crouton in the center, or topped with toasted bread arms be in the fore coming

breadcrumbs just before serving.
Both are delicious options to
try, but this recipe calls for the

What's the difference between gnocchi and potato dumplings?

Gnocchi are small dumplings found in Italian cuisine. They are frequently rolled on a textured board or with a fork to make small indentations along the dumplings. When served with a sauce, these indentations capture some of the sauce in each bite.

German-style potato dump-

lings are also made primarily with potatoes, but they are quite a bit

They are seasoned with marjoram or nutmeg and topped with toasted breadcrumbs before serving.

What are potato dumplings made of?

Potato dumplings are made with riced potatoes, potato starch and eggs for binding. They are often topped with toasted breadcrumbs or stuffed with a toasted bread crouton.

Turn to Dumplings, Page 2



Potato dumplings are a wonderful side dish to accompany other traditional German meals, such a sauerbraten. **ERIC KLEINBERG/THEKITCHN.COM**



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Chicago Tribune

THE MORNING CALL

DAILY®NEWS

Hartford Courant

THE BALTIMORE SUN

Orlando Sentinel

The Virginian-Pilot

SunSentinel

Daily Press

Tribune Publishing Company

Even though we think of Brussels sprouts for the holidays, creamy Brussels sprouts slaw would make a killer picnic dish. **CARRIE CROW**



Vegan Asian Napa cabbage slaw is made with sesame, soy sauce, rice vinegar, ginger and honey. **CHEYENNE COHEN**

Slaws expand definition of salad

By Katie Workman Associated Press

As we make our way toward the end of winter, what is seasonally available influences what we want to eat and what we cook. In the main course department, we tend to turn to dishes like slow roasts, braises, stews. But in many households, dinner isn't complete without a salad. And unlike in summer, when fluffy lettuces, juicy tomatoes and fresh herbs abound, the pick-

ings feel slimmer.

This is when our definition of salad could use some expansion and creativity.

Enter: slaws. Or coleslaws — what's the difference? Really nothing. Technically, coleslaw involves cabbage, whether green, red or napa, while the category of slaws can include all kinds of chopped or shredded crunchy vegetables. The two words are used interchangeably for the most part, however.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary says "coleslaw" comes from the Dutch "koolsla," which combines "kool" (cabbage) and "sla" (salad). At its simplest, classic American coleslaw is a mixture of chopped or grated cabbage with mayonnaise, vinegar and maybe a bit of sugar, plus salt and pepper.

Many think of slaws primarily in the summer, when we are grilling outdoors or hosting a barbecue for friends. And that's a shame, because since slaws are made from cabbage and other hardy vegetables, especially root vegetables, they are perfect for the cold-weather cooking months.

Slaws don't get soggy as quickly as leaf lettuce salads, so they can stay in the fridge for a day or two, sometimes longer. They make use of seasonal produce, and offer a nice change of pace from cooked vegetables on the plate.

They can be colorful and highly nutritious, and recipes are usually quite flexible. Once you get the basic shredding or chopping technique down and find a simple slaw dressing that you like, you can keep changing things up until baby lettuces and asparagus appear in the markets again.

So, other than cabbage, what vegetables can be used to make slaws? Carrots, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, beets, zucchini, summer squash, cucumber, bell peppers and winter squashes are some candidates. Even the harder vegetables can be used raw: The key is to shred them finely and peel off any tough skin. Remove any seeds from vegetables like squashes, cucumber or peppers.

To shred cabbage for slaw, you have a few choices. To do it by hand, first remove any dinged-up outer leaves and then quarter the cabbage. Cut the core out of each quarter. Place each chunk of cabbage on a cutting board and, using a large, sharp knife, thinly slice the cabbage crosswise to create thin shreds.

You can also use a mandoline, or the slicing or shredding attachment of a food processor. I like the slicing blade better than the grating blade for cabbage, as the grating blade creates tiny bits that don't have as much appealing texture. But you can definitely use a handheld box grater or the shredding blade for hardier vegetables, like beets or carrots.

Other popular add-ins for slaws include raisins or other dried fruits, nuts, apples, grapes, celery, bacon, onions or scallions, sugar snap peas, corn and fresh herbs.

Basic creamy slaw dressing

½ cup mayonnaise ½ cup sour cream (or additional mayonnaise)

2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard ½ cup minced scallions or green onions, or

red onion Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper, to

Blend all of the ingredients together in a large bowl. Add about 6 cups of shredded cabbage or other vegetables. You can also add a couple of tablespoons of minced, seeded jalapeno peppers or a squirt of hot sauce if you want to amp up the heat level.

Vegan Asian Napa cabbage slaw

Makes: 8 servings

½ cup unseasoned rice vinegar ¼ cup less-sodium soy sauce

1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil 1 tablespoon honey

1 teaspoon peeled and minced fresh ginger

1 head Napa cabbage 4 carrots peeled and grated 1 red bell pepper cored and thinly sliced 3 shallots halved and thinly sliced

1. In a large bowl, combine the rice vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil, honey and ginger. Add the cabbage, carrots, bell pepper and shallots, and toss to combine.

2. Cover and refrigerate for 1 day. If you haven't planned ahead, let it sit in the fridge or at room temperature for at least 1 hour before serving, so the vegetables soften slightly and absorb the dressing.

Creamy Brussels sprouts slaw

Makes: 6 servings

1 pound Brussels sprouts sliced and then roughly chopped (see note)

4 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

2 tablespoons fresh orange juice

1 tablespoon honey
½ cup small diced red onion

Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

½ cup finely grated Parmesan ½ cup dried cranberries or cherries, optional

optional ½ cup pumpkin seeds, optional

1. Place the Brussels sprouts in a large bowl.

2. In a small bowl or container, combine the mayonnaise, olive oil, mustard, lime juice, orange juice, honey, red onion and salt and pepper.

3. Pour the dressing over the Brussels sprouts and toss to combine well. Add the Parmesan, dried cranberries and pumpkin seeds and toss again. Transfer to a serving

Note: Buy thinly sliced Brussels sprouts and give them a rough chop on a cutting board. Or use whole Brussels sprouts, run them into the chute of a food processor and through the slicing blade, then roughly chop with a knife.



The dining room at Café Aura was redesigned in tones of earth, stone and sand that lend a sleekly elegant look. **LINDSAY BUKOWINSKI/HARTFORD COURANT**

Aura

from Page 1

julienne and radicchio. Branzino's mildness was unimproved by sautéed fennel and a few stewed tomatoes: it needed some pep (cilantro? shallots? caper butter?), and a later version substituting red snapper wasn't much of an improvement. And while some kitchens might pride themselves in pounding a veal cutlet Milanese to papery thinness, there's a critical point beyond which it is too thin, and all you get is the crispy panko and the oil it is fried in. Stiff and tasteless, the Aura version was pretty much a total loss — and the \$42 price tag didn't help.

But every time the kitchen seemed about to fall behind, it recouped and bounded back strong. A big bowl of linguine osso bucco was extremely meaty, braised in wine to exceptional, velvety tenderness. I feasted on a premium burger, impressively thick and broiled to perfect pinkness, on a pretzel bun with slices of heirloom tomato and a thick paving of fontina cheese. Borrowing a page from the happy hour menu. I ordered the fries supercharged with gorgonzola and truffle oil to complete one of the



The burger on a pretzel bun with fries at Café Aura. **JUSTINE KOESTER-HOBEN/RYAN MARKETING**

most satisfying burger experiences in years.

Was there enough room left for an apple tart, the slices laid out in a fan shape on a circle of pastry and topped with vanilla gelato? Fortunately, there was.

The fare at Café Aura over a number of months provided a drama of baffling defeats followed by roaring triumphs. It's a lot like the rollercoaster year that Auriemma's UConn basketball team has had. But with Geno as coach, you know the ride always ends in a winning season.

The basics 4 stars

The bill: Appetizers and salads, \$9 to \$19; pasta, \$22 to \$27; steaks, chops and entrees, \$22 to \$58; sides, \$8; desserts, \$10. Threecourse prix fixe, Monday and Tuesday, \$35. Hours: Monday through Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 4 to 10 p.m.; Sunday, brunch 11 a.m. t 2 p.m.; Sunday dinner 3 to 8 p.m. Reservations accepted. Happy hour: Monday to Thursday, 4 to 6 p.m. Accessibility: Wheelchair access through front of restaurant. Free parking on and in lot behind restaurant.

Café Aura is at 45 E. Center St., Manchester. Information: 860-643-2751 and cafeaura.com



Dumplings from Page 1

Potato dumplings

Makes: 12 dumplings, 4 to 6 servings 2 pounds russet potatoes (about 4 medium) 2 large eggs 1 small yellow onion 1 to 2 stalks celery 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons potato starch, divided 1 tablespoon kosher salt 1 teaspoon dried marjoram 2 tablespoons unsalted butter

butter ½ cup plain dry breadcrumbs 1. Peel 2 pounds russet potatoes. Place in a large pot or Dutch oven and add enough water to cover. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce the heat as needed and simmer until tender when pierced with a fork, 20 to 30 minutes. Drain and let the potatoes cool to room temperature. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour and up to overnight. (Chilled potatoes are easier to rice.)

2. Bring a large pot or Dutch oven of salted water to a boil. Meanwhile, make the dumpling dough and form the dumplings.

3. Place 2 large eggs in a large bowl and beat until combined. Mince 1 small yellow onion until you have ½ cup (or grate on the large holes of a box grater). Mince 1 to 2 celery stalks until you have ½ cup. Add the onion and celery to the eggs.

4. Pass potatoes through a potato ricer or grate on the

small holes of a box grater until you have 4 cups. Add the potatoes, 1 cup of the potato starch, 1 tablespoon kosher salt and 1 teaspoon dried marjoram to the bowl, and stir until just combined.

5. Divide mixture into 12 portions and shape each into a round dumpling. Place remaining 2 tablespoons potato starch in small bowl. Roll each dumpling in potato starch until coated, then put

potato starch in small bowl.
Roll each dumpling in potato
starch until coated, then put
on plate or baking sheet.

6. When water is boiling,
gently place dumplings in the
boiling water with a slotted

bags and freeze for up
three months. When
to eat, cook in boiling
until they float, then or
reduce the heat to low
simmer for 20 minute
until cooked through.

spoon. When dumplings float to the top, about 5 minutes, reduce heat to maintain a simmer. Cover and simmer until dumplings have puffed up a bit and have a shiny surface, about 20 minutes. Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons unsalted butter in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1/2 cup plain breadcrumbs and stir to coat. Cook, stirring often, until breadcrumbs are browned, 4 to 8 minutes. Remove skillet from the heat. **7. Transfer** dumplings with the slotted spoon to a bowl or a serving platter. Top with the toasted breadcrumbs

and serve warm.

Notes: Mix and shape the dumplings as directed, then arrange on a rimmed baking sheet so they aren't touching and freeze until solid.

Transfer them to zip-top bags and freeze for up to three months. When ready to eat, cook in boiling water until they float, then cover, reduce the heat to low, and simmer for 20 minutes or

How the internet has left its mark on terroir

Social media has created new wine cultures, regardless of proximity

By Eric Asimov The New York Times

I've often written that the best wine is an expression of culture. This is easy enough to understand in historic wine-producing regions, where centuries of local traditions helped to shape the identity of the

But what about more recent wine regions like California or Australia. where decisions about grapes, methods and styles of wine have often been made by individual entrepreneurs motivated by commercial expedience or ego? The cultural antecedents of many wines from the 20th century, made without community involvement, were more difficult to trace.

Over the last 20 years or so, though, the internet and social media have tied people around the world closer and closer together, creating new wine cultures regardless of physical proximity. Growers and producers who might once have been isolated can now be a part of community efforts, perhaps adding to our understanding of terroir and a sense of place.

These communities can share thoughts and ideas, ask questions and discuss solutions regardless of how far apart they might be physically. Natural wine producers in the Adelaide Hills of Australia, for example, have instant access to colleagues in the Loire Valley of France or the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy. A syrah producer in Sonoma can get together weekly to kick back or talk business with friends in

What is gained by this ability to communicate?



TIM ROBINSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Answers to questions, encouragement, guidance, being talked off the ledge – things that come from participating in a community in real time. All of these elements help to improve not only the general quality of wines but also the ability to make distinctive wines.

Like-minded cultural groups form in this way, directly influencing the sorts of wines that are made. Let me amplify that with some background.

What constitutes a sense of place, or terroir, to use the all-encompassing French term, has evolved over time. A century ago, terroir referred to the immutable physical characteristics of a place that shaped the identity of a wine.

This included the geolthe soil and bedrock, the altitude and inclination toward the sun. It included the climate, the source of the water necessary for the vines and how that water drained into the earth. It included the flora and fauna of a particular area.

As science has gained a greater understanding of the physical world, this notion of terroir has expanded. Flora and fauna now include the microbial life in a vinevard, both the yeast and other organisms in the air and on the grapes as well as the microorganisms in the soil.

One more element has come to be understood as part of terroir: the people farming the grapes and making the wines, particularly if these people are part of a culture of shared ideas.

This culture comprises the traditions of communities defined by geographical proximity, including

the grapes that are grown in the area, the viticultural and winemaking techniques, the tools and equipment as well as attitudes and ways of thinking.

This is why you can travel from one part of Italy, for example, to another, even across a valley, and find a different sort of wine, made with different grapes using different methods.

It's also why, in much of the historic wine-producing world, wines were identified with geographical terms — Volnay or Chinon, say — rather than the names of grapes. The geographical designation was all that was needed to understand that a wine made by the people of Volnay would have a particular flavor, and that the wine of Chinon would offer another.

As wine cultures devel-

oped locally, they were also exported. The ancient Greeks and especially the Romans brought their ways of thinking about wine to whatever distant places they roamed. In the Middle Ages, monastic communities like the Benedictines and the Cistercians spread the gospel of wine to different parts of Europe.

No place has embraced the intricacies of terroir so much as Burgundy. People there don't just believe that a Gevrey-Chambertin tastes different from a Chambolle-Musigny, they know it does with every fiber of their being.

All of this makes sense in wine-producing regions with centuries of traditions. But what about newer wine regions without such long histories handed down over generations?

Colonizing missionaries brought vineyards and wine to South America in the 16th and 17th centuries and to California in the 18th century. Many other vineyards in California were planted in the 19th century by immigrants trying to recreate as best they could the traditions of their birth countries

It would have been interesting to see how these vineyards and winemakers would have evolved, but their development and connection to the modern era effectively ended during Prohibition.

The modern American wine industry that arose after World War II is rooted in entrepreneurship rather than cultural tradition. Which grapes to plant, where to plant them and how to make the wine were largely business decisions rather than the organic evolution of a way of life.

The element of culture is the most significant difference between Old World and New World winemaking regions. While the Old World-New World construction can strike some as condescending and meaningless today, I think it applies when speaking to cultural influences.

Thanks to the internet. growers and producers are no longer consigned to isolated and insular groups, except by choice. But the creation of far-flung wine communities is not something that happened solely because of the internet. İt simply accelerated a process of mental and emotional globalization that has gone on since World War II.

The internet is only the latest in a procession that includes telephones, televisions and jet planes, and of course the postwar prosperity that enabled people to make use of these tools.

Since the 1970s and '80s, young people going into wine, whether they were the next generation of a winemaking family or new to the wine world, have often traveled to other countries for internships and working stints in other wine cultures. They've brought back what they've learned and integrated it into their own bottles.

Over the years, perhaps, they were able to maintain relationships and touch base when gathering at festivals and events around the world. Now the internet has enabled this integration to continue.

At one point, globalization in the wine world prompted fear that homogenization was paramount, that the great diversity of grapes and wine styles would dwindle, and the world would drown in a stultifying sea of chardonnay and cabernet sauvi-

Instead, the opposite has occurred. The world continues to embrace and explore the potential of grapes both new and old, from places long esteemed and areas dismissed for generations.

It's commerce and connection, and maybe also a new wine culture.



Using the right combination of sugars and shaping techniques guarantees thick and chewy cookies. KENDRA SMITH/AMERICA'S TEST KITCHEN

Tricks for baking thick, chewy cookies every time

America's Test Kitchen

Thick cookies are often chewy cookies - and we made recipe choices to create cookies that are nice and thick. First, we use more brown sugar than white sugar. Brown sugar contains more water, so it helps make cookies moister and chewier.

Next, we let the dough rest for 30 minutes before shaping and baking the cookies. As the dough rests, the flour absorbs some of the water in the dough. The dough's texture thickens up, which means that it won't spread as much in the oven. We don't press these cookies flat before baking, which helps prevent them from spreading and keeps them thicker.

Finally, removing the cookies from the oven when they look almost done helps maintain their chewy texture.

Chewy chocolate cookies

Makes: 12 cookies

½ cup (2½ ounces) all-purpose flour 2 tablespoons Dutch-processed cocoa powder

½ teaspoon baking powder ¼ teaspoon salt

²/₃ cup (4 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips

2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened ⅓ cup packed (2⅓ ounces) light brown sugar 2 tablespoons sugar 1 large egg

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt.

2. Place chocolate chips in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Heat in microwave at 50% power until melted, 2 to 3 minutes. Use a rubber spatula to stir chocolate until completely melted and smooth.

3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment (or in a large bowl if using a handheld mixer), combine softened butter and the sugars. Mix on medium speed until well combined, about 1 1/2 minutes. Scrape down bowl.

4. Add egg, vanilla and melted chocolate. Mix on low speed until combined, about 2 minutes. Scrape down bowl.

5. Add flour mixture. Mix on low speed until combined, about 1 minute, Scrape down bowl and stir in any remaining dry flour. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough sit at room temperature for 30 minutes. 6. Meanwhile, adjust oven rack to middle

position and heat oven to 350 degrees. Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. 7. When dough is ready, use your hands to roll dough into 12 balls (about 1 heaping tablespoon each). Place dough balls on a parchment-lined baking sheet, arranging them in staggered rows and leaving 2 inches

of space between balls.

8. Bake cookies until edges have just begun to set, but centers are still very soft, 12 to 14 minutes. Transfer baking sheet to a cooling rack. Let cookies cool completely on the baking sheet, about 30 minutes. Serve. **Note:** We prefer Dutch-processed cocoa powder in this recipe.



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Sandwich of the Week: San Daniele Prosciutto, Cheese, Lettuce & Tomato on a Hard Roll

* Not Responsible for Typographical Errors

Week of March 10 – March 16, 2022 675 Wolcott Hill Rd. • Wethersfield • (860) 785-8998 By Kayla Stewart The New York Times

When Charlotte Lyons

test kitchen in Chicago

after becoming the maga-

zine's food editor in 1985,

one thought ran through

Here, amid the psyche-

her mind: "Whoa!"

delic waves of orange,

green and purple that

swirled along the walls,

Black cuisine was freed to

be experimental and futur-

istic. For Ebony readers,

the magazine's food was a

When the kitchen was

central element of Black

built in the early 1970s,

zine's place in the culi-

nary pantheon, a legacy

tury before with Freda

that began a quarter-cen-

DeKnight, an exalted cook

and food editor who paved

a path for future genera-

tions of Black women in

"The Ebony kitchen

was certainly one of the

ways that a lot of people,

both African American

and non-African American, became aware of the vastness of the scope of African American food,"

said Jessica Harris, a food

Harris is the lead cura-

tor for "African/American:

Making the Nation's Table,"

an exhibition that opened

in February at the Africa

Center at Aliko Dangote

Hall in Harlem where

the kitchen, rebuilt and

restored by the Museum of

museum based in Brooklyn.

Food and Drink, a mobile

will be on display through

June 19, which is June-

Lee Bey, an adjunct

professor of architecture

at the Illinois Institute of

Technology, said the look

of the kitchen was almost indescribable. "I liken it

to a kind of Afrocentric

Modernism, where there

are colors and fabrics, and

with angled patterns on it

and every floor looks differ-

leather and ostrich feathers and color and wallpaper

scholar and author of "High on the Hog: A Culi-

America."

teenth.

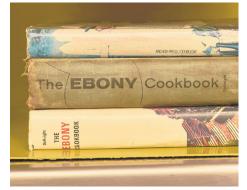
American food media.

it heralded the maga-

identity and pride.

Celebrating Black cuisine

Iconic Ebony test kitchen reborn in new exhibit



Freda DeKnight's cookbook, "A Date With a Dish," which was briefly renamed "The Ebony Cookbook," on display in the Ebony kitchen.

in the original and requires only a single ovenproof skillet. The dish tastes just the same and reflects DeKnight's commitment to fresh ingredients and vibrant flavors

in her cooking.

Salt

Honey-glazed carrots

These sweet, citrusy carrots

are an ideal accompaniment to savorv. hearty main dishes, like Ebony's stewed chicken and dumplings from the magazine's first food editor, Freda DeKnight. This adaptation streamlines the usage of a pot and baking dish

Makes: 2 to 4 servings Total time: 40 minutes 6 to 8 carrots, peeled 2 tablespoons orange juice 2 tablespoons honey 1 tablespoon butter

1 tablespoon finely chopped parsley

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees. 2. Fill an ovenproof skillet that can fit the carrots with 1 to 2 inches of water. Bring to a boil over high heat. Add the carrots and add more water if needed to cover the carrots. Reduce the heat to simmer the carrots until they're tender but not soft, about 15 minutes.

3. Pour the water out of the skillet, keeping the carrots in the skillet by holding them back with a spatula. Add the juice, honey and butter to the skillet and stir to mix (the butter may not melt all the way). Roll the carrots in the mixture, season them with salt and transfer to the oven. 4. Bake, gently rolling the carrots once, until the carrots are glazed, about 15 minutes. Season to taste with salt and sprinkle with parsley.

Ebony's stewed chicken and dumplings

This warming dish remains a constant in African American cuisine. Comforting and indulgent, it follows a formula that was familiar to Ebony's audience. Published in 1962, the original recipe from food editor Freda DeKnight called for a 41/2- to 5-pound stewing hen that, she wrote, could take 2 to 3 ½ hours to cook "depending on the age and quality of the bird." Today, smaller, fresh young chickens are readily available in most supermarkets, so the meat becomes tender much more quickly, making it easier to dig into this one-bowl meal even faster.

Makes: 4 servings Total time: 1 hour, 15 minutes For the chicken:

1 (4-pound) whole chicken 1/2 cup chopped onion 1/2 cup chopped celery with tops

11/2 teaspoons fine salt 1/2 teaspoon flavor enhancer, such as Ac'cent or chicken bouillon granules ¼ teaspoon garlic salt ¼ teaspoon paprika

For the dumplings: 1 cup all-purpose flour 2 teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon sugar

1/2 teaspoon fine salt ½ cup whole milk 2 tablespoons finely chopped parsley, plus more for garnish

1. Prepare the chicken: Cut chicken into 8 pieces with the back bones (2 breasts, 2 thighs, 2 drumsticks, 2 wings). You also can buy the chicken already cut up. Place in a large, heavy cooking pot or Dutch oven and add onion, celery, salt, flavor enhancer, garlic salt, paprika and enough cold water to just cover meat (about 4 cups). 2. Cover and bring to a boil

over high heat. Skim any foam from the surface. then reduce the heat to low and simmer gently until the chicken is almost completely tender, about 45 minutes. 3. When the chicken is almost done, make the dumplings: Whisk the flour,

baking powder, sugar and salt in a medium bowl. Add the milk and stir to form a thick, smooth batter. 4. Uncover the pot and drop heaping teaspoons of the dumpling batter on top of the chicken, spacing apart slightly. Sprinkle with the parsley and cover the pot. Cook for 20 minutes without lifting the lid. If you cut into a dumpling, the dough should be cooked through to the center. Serve the chicken and dumplings on a platter or

in serving dishes, garnished with more parsley. - Recipes from Freda DeKnight; adapted by Kayla Stewart



The Ebony test kitchen, which for decades operated in Chicago, is on view as part of the exhibition "African/American: Making the Nation's Table," at the Africa Center in New York. The vibrant room is the centerpiece of a new exhibition in Harlem focused on the African American food experience. **TIMOTHY SMITH/THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOS**

ent," he said. When it was built a half-century ago, the Ebony kitchen was at the heart of Black American food culture in the media. John Johnson, the owner of Johnson Publishing Co. in Chicago, had built a headquarters that reflected Black creativity and innovation, which his company covered through some of the nation's foremost African American magazines,

including Ebony and Jet. John Moutoussamy designed the 11-story building, and the kitchen was outfitted by a team that included Arthur Elrod and William Raiser, both known for their adoration of Palm Springs décor, with then-state-of-the-art technology like grills, mixers, a hidden toaster, a trash compactor and a refrigerator with an ice and water dispenser.

It was almost lost to history. Johnson Publishing Co. closed the kitchen in 2010 and sold the building to a Chicago developer, but Landmarks Illinois, a preservation nonprofit, was able to save the kitchen before it was destroyed, buying it for \$1. The Museum of Food and Drink took temporary ownership of the kitchen and moved it to New York, where it restored the room to its former funky glory.

Before the test kitchen's opening, some of the most important Black women in American food journalism had created the food coverage in Ebony, including DeKnight, who became the magazine's first food editor

An enthusiastic traveler and "leading home econ-

omist," DeKnight traveled throughout the United States to learn the culinary traditions of Black American home cooks and to gain a deeper understanding of international cuisines and flavors. She shared her findings through recipes published in her monthly, photo-heavy column, "A Date With a Dish," which spoke to Black cooks with varying degrees of knowledge and experience. Many of those recipes were collected in "A Date With a Dish: A Cookbook of American Negro Recipes," published in 1948, which is among the first major African American cookbooks published for a Black audience.

"She understood that all over the country, there were Black people and Black professionals in every little city and in every single state, and that's exactly who she went after," said journalist Donna Battle Pierce, who is working on a book about DeKnight's life. "She said, 'I'm not writing this for anybody but us,' and I love that concept."

Ebony readers could share family recipes that would be tested by professional cooks and editors, and selected recipes would receive a \$25 prize and a feature in the magazine. Internationally influenced recipes that DeKnight had grown to admire, such as rose petal pudding, fruitcake, peanut soup and mulligatawny soup, could be found among Ebony's pages, along with refinements to dishes that were perhaps more familiar to



The Ebony kitchen was "one of the ways that a lot of people, both African American and non-African American, became aware of the vastness of the scope of African American food," says Jessica Harris, lead curator for "African/American: Making the Nation's Table" at the Africa Center in Harlem.

the Black American diaspora, including Ebony's stewed chicken and dump-

lings and Hoppin' John. The column DeKnight started bloomed after her death in 1963. Under food editors Charla Draper and then Lyons, Ebony doubled down on the column, sharing stories that helped readers prepare dishes like turnips, mustard greens, fried catfish and oven fried chicken.

"So many people looked to Ebony for recipes that they were familiar with or had been part of our culture," Lyons said. "And I think that's why people loved that column so much. Maybe they didn't get the recipe for their grandmother's pancakes or sweet potato pie. But we could create it for them, and we would bring all of that stuff

to life." Along with the restored kitchen, visitors to the "African/American" exhibit in Harlem will learn about African American foodways, from agriculture and the culinary arts, hospitality, distilling and brewing to entrepreneurship and migration.

A colorful legacy quilt that recognizes 406 African American contributions in food will greet guests as they enter the exhibit. A rotating shoebox lunch tasting, curated by chefs like Carla Hall, Adrienne Cheatham and Kwame Onwuachi, will end the experience for an additional fee, allowing visitors to engage with a tradition African Americans experienced while traveling through the segregated Deep South.

"These stories are important," said Catherine Piccoli, curatorial director of the Museum of Food and Drink, which organized the "African/American" exhibit. "We need to be able to share them. We need to be able to acknowledge our shared history of trauma and of racism and also celebrate African American ingenuity, creativity and foodways."

The celebration begins by engaging with the test kitchen, a space that could've so easily been lost.

"It is not only the place from which much emanated, but it is also a thing that is with us that we still have," Harris said. "There are so many things that we don't have, that this is doubly to be revered because it did survive, and only barely."